

Tyrannick Love;
OR, THE
Royal Martyr.
A
TRAGEDY.

As it is Acted
By His Majesty's Servants at the
THEATRE-ROYAL.

By JOHN DRYDEN, Servant to his Majesty.

*Non jam prima peto——neq; vincere certo;
Extremum rediisse pudet.——Virg.*

LONDON,

Printed by T. W. for Jacob Tonson, and Thomas Bennet, and Sold
by R. Wellington, G. Strahan, and B. Lintott, 1702.

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THE
OFFICE OF THE
TREASURER
OF THE
UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
WASHINGTON
D.C.



*To the Most Illustrious Prince, JAMES, Duke
of Monmouth and Bucclugh.*

*One of His Majestie's most Honourable Privy-Council, and
Knight of the most Noble Order of the Garter, &c.*

SIR,

THE favourable Reception which your Excellent Lady afforded to one of my former Plays, has encouraged me to double my Presumption, in addressing this to your Grace's Patronage. So dangerous a thing it is to admit a Poet into your Family, that you can never afterwards be free from the chiming of ill Verses, perpetually founding in your Ears, and more troublesome than the Neighbourhood of Steeples. I have been favourable to my self in this expression; a zealous Fanatick would have gone farther, and have called me the Serpent, who first presented the fruit of my Poetry to the Wife, and so gain'd the opportunity to seduce the Husband. Yet I am ready to avow a Crime so advantageous to me; but the World, which will condemn my boldness, I am sure will justifie and applaud my choice. All men will join with me in the Adoration which I pay you, they would wish only I had brought you a more noble Sacrifice. Instead of an Heroic Play, you might justly expect an Heroic Poem, filled with the past Glories of your Ancestors, and the future certainties of your own. Heaven has already taken care to form you for an Heroe. You have all the advantages of Mind and Body, and an Illustrious Birth, conspiring to render you an extraordinary Person. The *Achilles* and the *Rinaldo* are present in you, even above their Originals; you only want a *Homer*, or a *Tasso*, to make you equal to them. Youth, Beauty, and Courage, (all which you possess in the height of their perfection) are the most desirable gifts of Heaven: and Heaven is never prodigal of such Treasures, but to some uncommon purpose. So goodly a Fabrick was never framed by an Almighty Architect for a vulgar Guest. He shewed the value which he set upon your Mind, when he took care to have it so nobly and so beautifully lodg'd. To a graceful fashion and deportment of Body, you have joined a winning Conversation, and an easie Greatness, derived to you from the best, and best belov'd of Princes. And with a great power of Obliging, the World has observed in you, a desire to Oblige, even beyond your Power. This, and all that I can say on so excellent and large a Subject, is only History, in which Fiction has no part; I can employ nothing of Poetry in it, any more than I do in that humble Protestation which I make, to continue ever.

Your Grace's most obedient and most devoted Servant,

A 2

John Dryden.

Persons Represented.

M Aximin, <i>Tyrant of Rome,</i> By Major <i>Mohun.</i> Porphyrius, <i>Captain of the</i> } <i>Pretorian Bands,</i> } <i>Mr. Hart.</i> Charinus, <i>the Emperor's Son,</i> <i>Mr. Harris.</i> Placidius, <i>a great Officer,</i> <i>Mr. Kynaston.</i> Valerius, } <i>Tribunes of the Army,</i> <i>Mr. Lydall.</i> Albinus, } <i>Mr. Littlewood.</i> Nigrinus, <i>a Tribune and Conjurer,</i> <i>Mr. Beeston.</i> Amariel, <i>Guardian-Angel to S. Catharine</i> <i>Mr. Bell.</i> Apollonius, <i>a Heathen Phylosopher,</i> <i>Mr. Cartwright.</i>	
Berenice, <i>Wife to Maximin,</i> By <i>Mrs. Marshall.</i> Valeria, <i>Daughter to Maximin,</i> <i>Mrs. Ellen Gwyn.</i> S. Catharine, <i>Princess of Alexandria,</i> <i>Mrs. Bowtell.</i> Felicia, <i>her Mother,</i> <i>Mrs. Knepp.</i> Erotion, } <i>Attendants,</i> <i>Mrs. Uphill.</i> Cydnon, } <i>Mrs. Eastland.</i>	

SCENE, *The Camp of Maximin, under the Walls of Aquileia.*

Pro-

Prologue.

Self-Love (which never rightly understood)
Makes Poets still conclude their Plays are good :
And malice in all Criticks reigns so high,
That for small Errours, they whole Plays decry ;
So that, to see this fondness, and that spite,
You'd think that none but Mad Men judge or write.
Therefore our Poet, as he thinks not fit
T' impose upon you what he writes, for Wit,
So hopes, that leaving you your censures free,
You equal Judges of the Whole will be :
They judge but half who only faults will see. }
Poets, like Lovers, should be bold and dare,
They spoil their business with an over-care :
And he who servilely creeps after Sence,
Is safe, but ne'er will reach an Excellence,
Hence 'tis our Poet in his conjuring,
Allow'd his Fancy the full scope and swing.
But when a Tyrant for his Theme he had,
He loos'd the Reins, and bid his Muse run mad :
And though he stumbles in a full Career ;
Yet Rashness is a better fault than Fear.
He saw his way ; but in so swift a Pace,
To chuse the Ground, might be to loose the Race.
They then who of each Trip th' advantage take,
Find but those faults which they want Wit to make.

Epilogue

Spoken by Mrs *Ellen*, when she was to be carried off
dead by the Bearers.

To the Bearer. **H**Old, are you mad? you damn'd confounded Dog,
I am to rise, and speak the Epilogue.
To the Audience] I come, kind Gentlemen, strange News to tell ye,
I am the Ghost of poor departed Nelly.
Sweet Ladies, be not frightened, I'll be civil,
I'm what I was a little harmless Devil.
For after Death, we Sprights have just such Natures,
We had, for all the World, when humane Creatures;
And therefore I, that was an Actress here,
Play all my tricks in Hell, a Goblin there.
Gallants look to't, you say there are no Sprights;
But I'll come dance about your Beds at Nights.
And'faith you'll be in a sweet kind of taking,
When I supprize you betwixt sleep and waking.
To tell you true, I walk because I die
Out of my Calling in a Tragedy.
O Poet, damn'd dull Poet, who could prove
So senseless, to make Nelly die for Love;
Nay, what's yet worse, to kill me in the prime
Of Easter-Term, in Tart and Cheesecake-time!
I'll fit the Fop, for I'll not one word say
T'excuse his godly, out of fashion, Play.
A Play, which if you dare but twice sit out,
You'll all be slander'd, and be thought devout.
But farewell, Gentlemen, make haste to me,
I'm sure ere long to have your Company.
As for my Epitaph when I am gone,
I'll trust no Poet, but will write my own.

Here Nelly lies, who though she liv'd a Slater'n,
Yet di'd a Princess, acting in St. Cathar'n.

Tyrant

Tyrannick Love ;

ACT I. SCENE I.

A Camp, or Pavillion-Royal.

Maximin, Charinus, Placidius, Albinus, Valerius,
Apollonius, *Guards.*

Max. **T**Hus far my Arms have with success been crown'd ;
And found no stop, or vanquish'd what they found.
The German Lakes my Legions o'er-past,
With all the Bars which Art or Nature cast :

My Foes in watry Fastnesses inclos'd,
I fought, alone, to their whole War expos'd.
Did first the depth of trembling Marshes sound,
And fix'd my Eagles in unfaithful Ground :
By force submitted to the Roman sway,
Fierce Nations, and unknowing to obey :
And now, for my reward, ungrateful *Rome*,
For which I fought abroad, rebels at home.

Alb. Yet 'tis their fear which does this War maintain :
They cannot brook a Martial Monarch's Reign :
Your Valour would too much their Sloth accuse ;
And therefore, like themselves, they Princes chuse.

Placid. Two, tame, gown'd Princes, who at ease debate
In lazy Chairs the business of the State :
Who reign but while the People they can please,
And only know the little Arts of Peace.

Clar. In Fields they dare not fight where Honour calls ;
But breath a faint defiance from their Walls.
The very noise of War their Souls does wound ;
They quake, but hearing their own Trumpets sound.

Val. An easie Summons but for Form they wait,
And to your Fame will open wide the Gate.

Placid. I wish our Fame that swift success may find ;
But Conquests, Sir, are easily design'd :
However soft within themselves they are,
To you they will be valiant by despair :

For

TYRANNICK LOVE: Or,

For having once been guilty, well they know
To a revengeful Prince they still are so.

Alb. 'Tis true, that, since the Senate's Succours came,
They grow more bold.

Max. ——— That Senates but a name :
Or they are Pagean Princes which they make ;
That Pow'r they give away, they would partake.
Two equal pow'rs, two different ways will draw,
While each may check and give the other Law.
'True, they secure Propriety and Peace ;
But are not fit an Empire to encrease.
When they should aid their Prince, the Slaves dispute ;
And fear success should make him absolute,
They let Foes conquer to secure the State,
And lend a Sword, whose edge themselves rebate.

Char. When to encrease the Gods you late are gone,
I'll swiftly chuse to dye, or reign alone :
But these half-Kings our Courage cannot fright ;
The thrifty State will bargain e'er they fight :
Give just so much for every Victory ;
And rather lose a Fight, than over-buy.

Max. Since all delays are dangerous in War,
Your men, *Albinus*, for assault prepare :
Chrispinus and *Menephibus*, I hear
Two Consulars, these *Aquileians* cheer ;
By whom they may, if we protract the time,
Be taught the Courage to defend their crime.

Placid. Put of th' assault but only for this day :
No loss can come by such a small delay.

Char. We are not sure to Morrow will be ours :
Wars have, like Love, their favourable hours :
Let us use all : for if we lose one day,
That white one in the Crowd may slip away.

Max. Fates dark recesses we can never find ;
But Fortune, at some hours, to all is kind ;
The lucky have whole days, which still they choose ;
Th'unlucky have but hours, and those they lose.

Placid. I have consulted one, who reads Heav'n's doom,
And sees, as present, things which are to come.
'Tis that *Nigrinus*, made by your command
A Tribune in the new Panonian Band.
Him have I seen, (on *Ister's* Banks he stood,
Where last we winter'd) bind the head-long flood
In sudden Ice ; and where most swift it flows,
In Chrystal Nets, the wondring Fishes close.

Then,

The ROYAL MARTYR.

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Then, with a moments Thaw, the streams enlarge,
And from the Mesh the twinkling Guests discharge.
In a deep Vale, or near some ruin'd Wall,
He wou'd the Ghosts of slaughtered Soldiers call;
Who, slow, to wounded bodies did repair,
And loath to enter, shiver'd in the Air;
These his dread Wand did to short life compel,
And forc'd the Fates of Battles to foretel.

Max. 'Tis wond'rous strange! But good *Placidius*, say,
What prophecies *Nigrinus* of this day?

Placid. In a lone Tent, all hung with black, I saw,
Where in a Square he did a Circle draw:
Four Angles, made by that Circumference,
Bore holy words inscrib'd, of mystick Sense.
When first a hollow Wind began to blow,
The Sky grew black, and belli'd down more low,
Around the field did nimble Lightning play,
Which offer'd us by fits, and snatch'd the day.
Midst this, was heard the shrill and tender cry
'Of well-pleas'd Ghosts, which in the storm did fly;
Danc'd to and fro, and skim'd along the ground,
Till to the Magick Circle they were bound.
They coursing it, whilst we were fenc'd within,
We saw this dreadful Scene of Fate begin.

Char. Speak without fear; what did the Vision shew?

Placid. A Curtain drawn presented to our view,
A Town besieg'd; and on the neighb'ring Plain,
Lay heaps of Visionary Soldiers slain.
A rising Mist obscur'd the gloomy head
Of one, who in Imperial Robes lay dead.
Near this, in fetters, stood a Virgin crown'd;
Whom many *Cupids* strove in vain to wound:
A voice to morrow, still to morrow rung:
Another *Io*; *Io*, *Pæan*, sung.

Char. Visions and Oracles still doubtfull are,
'And ne'r expounded till th'event of War.
The Gods fore-knowledge on our Swords will wait:
If we fight well they must show good Fate.

[To them a Centurion]

Cent. A rising dust which troubles all the Air,
And this way travels, shows some Army near.

Char. I hear the sound of Trumpets from a far.

[Exit Albinus.]

Max. It seems the voice of Triumph, not of War.

[To them Albinus again.]

Alb. Health and Success our Emperour attends;
The Forces marching on the Plain are Friends.

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Porphyrius, whom you *Aegypt's* Prætor made,
Is come from *Alexandria* to your aid.

Max. It well becomes the Conduct and the Care
Of one so fam'd and fortunate in War.

You must resign, *Placidius*, your Command,
To him I promis'd the Prætorian Band.
Your duty in your swift compliance show,
I will provide some other Charge for you.

Placid. May *Cæsar's* pleasure ever be obey'd;
With that submission which by me is paid.
Now all the Curses Envy ever knew,
Or could invent, *Porphyrius* pursue.

Alb. *Placidius* does too tamely bear his loss;
This new Pretender will all pow'r ingross:
All things must now by his direction move;
And you, Sir, must resign your Father's love.

Char. Yes; every name to his repute must bow;
There grow no Bays for any other Brow.
He blasts my early Honour in the bud,
Like some tall Tree the Monster of the Wood.
O'r shading all which under him would grow,
He sheds his venom on the Plants below.

Alb. You must some noble action undertake;
Equal with his your own renown to make.

Char. I am not for a sloathful envy born,
I'll do't this day, in the dire Visions scorn.
He comes: We two, like the Twin-Stars appear;
Never to shine together in one Sphere.

[*Aside.*
To *Charinus*.]

[*Exit cum Alb.*]

Enter Porphyrius attended.

Max. *Porphyrius*, welcome, welcome as the light
To cheerful Birds; or as to Lovers, night.
Welcome as what thou bring'st me, Victory.

Per. That waits, Sir, on your Arms, and not on me.
You left a Conquest more than half atchiev'd;
And for whose easiness I almost griev'd.
Yours only the *Aegyptian* Laurels are;
I bring you but the reliques of your War.
The Christian Princess to receive your doom,
Is from her Conquer'd *Alexandria* come.
Her Mother in another Vessel sent,
A Storm surpriz'd; nor know I the event:
Both from your Bounty must receive their state;
Or must on your Tryumphant Chariot wait.

Max. From me they can expect no grace, whose minds
An execrable Superstition blinds.

Apoll.

The ROYAL MARTYR.

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Apoll. The gods, who rais'd you to the Worlds Command,
Require these Victims from your grateful hand.

Por. To minds resolv'd, the threats of Death are vain;
They run to fires, and their enjoy their pain:
Not *Mucius* made more haste his hand t' expose
To greedy flames, than their whole bodies those.

Max. How, to their own destruction, they are blind!
Zeal is the pious madness of the mind.

Por. They all our fam'd Phylosophers defie;
And would our Faith by force of Reason try.

Apoll. I beg it, Sir, by all the Powers Divine,
That in their right this Combat may be mine.

Max. It shall; and fifty Doctors of our Laws,
Be added to you, to maintain the Cause.

*Enter Berenice the Empress, Valeria Daughter to the
Emperour, Erotion.*

Placid. the Empress and your Daughter, Sir, are here.

Por. What dangers in these charming Eyes appear!

[Looking on the Empress.]

How my old wounds are open'd at this view!
And in my Murd'ers presence bleed anew!

Max. I did expect your coming to partake
The general gladness which my Triumphs make.
You did *Porphyrius* as a Courtier know,
But as a Conqueror behold him now.

[To the Ladies.]

Ber. You know (I read it in your blushing face)
To merit better than receive a grace:
And I know better silently to own;
Than with vain words to pay your service done.

[To Por.]

Por. Princes, like Gods, reward e'er we deserve;

[Kneeling to kiss her hand.]

And pay us in permitting us to serve.
Oh might I still grow here, and never move!

[lower.]

Ber. How dangerous are these Ecstasies of Love!
He shows his passion to a thousand Eyes!
He cannot stir, nor can I bid him rise!
That word my heart refuses to my tongue!

[Aside.]

Max. Madam, you let the General kneel too long.

Por. Too long, as if Eternity were so!

[Aside.]

Ber. Rise, good *Porphyrius*, (since it must be so.)

[Aside.]

Por. Like Hermits, from a Vision, I retire;
With Eyes too weak to see what I admire.

[Rising.]

[Aside.]

Val. The Empress knows your worth; but, Sir, there be

[To Porphyrius, who kisses her hand.]

Those who can value it as high as she.

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And

And 'tis but just (since in my Father's cause,
You fought) your Valour should have my Applause.

Placid. O Jealousie, how art thou Eagle-ey'd!
She loves; and would her Love in praises hide:
How am I bound this Rival to pursue,
Who ravishes my Love and Fortune too!

[*Aside.*

[*A dead March within, and Trumpets.*

Max. Somewhat of mournful, sure my Ears does wound;
Like the hoarse murmurs of a Trumpets sound,
And Drums unbrac'd, with Souldiers broken cries.

Enter Albinus.

Albinus, whence proceeds this dismal noise?

Alb. Too soon you'll know what I want words to tell.

Max. How fares my Son? Is my *Charinus* well?
Not answer me! Oh my Prophetick fear!

Alb. How can I speak; or how, Sir, can you hear?
Imagine that which you would most deplore,
And that which I would speak, is it, or more?

Max. Thy mournful message in thy looks I read:
Is he (Oh that I live to ask it) dead?

Alb. Sir——

Max. Stay; if thou speak'st that word, thou speak'st thy last:
Some God now, if he dares, relate what's past:
Say but he's dead that God shall mortal be.

Alb. Then what I dare not speak look back and see.

[*Charinus born in dead by Soldiers.*

Max. See nothing, Eyes, henceforth but death and wo,
You've done me the worst office you can do.
You've shown me Destinies prepost'rous crime;
An unripe Fate; disclos'd e'er Natur's time.

Placid. Allwage, great Prince, your passion, lest you show
There's somewhat in your Soul which Fate can bow.

Por. Fortune should by your greatness be control'd:
Arm your great mind, and let her take no hold.

Max. To tame Philosophers teach Constancy;
There is no farther use of it in me.
Gods (but why name I you!

All that was worth a Pray'r to you, is gone :)
I ask not back my Virtue, but my Son.

Alb. His too great thirst of Fame his ruin brought,
Though, Sir, beyond all humane force he fought.

Placid. This was my Vision of this fatal day!

Alb. With a fierce hast he led our Troops the way:
Whilst fiery showr's of Sulphur on him rain'd;
Nor left he, till the Battlements he gain'd:

There

The ROYAL MARTYR.

There with a Forrest of their Darts he strove;
And stood like *Capaneus* defying *Jove*.
With his broad Sword the boldest beating down,
Whilst Fate grew pale lest he should win the Town,
And turn'd the Iron Leaves of its dark Book,
To make new dooms, or mend what it mistook.
Till fought by many Deaths, he sunk, though late,
And by his fall asserted doubtful Fate.

Valer. Oh my dear Brother! whom Heaven let us see,
And would not longer suffer him to be!

Max. And didst not thou a Death with honour chuse,
But impudently liv'st to bring this news?
After his loss, how didst thou dare to breath?
——But thy base Ghost shall follow him in death.

[To Alb.]

A decimation I will strictly make
Of all who my *Charinus* did forsake.
And of each Legion each Centurion
Shall die: ——*Placidius*, see my pleasure done.

Por. Sir, you will lose by this severity
Your Soldiers hearts.

Max. ——Why, they take Pay to die.

Por. Then spare *Albinus* only.

Max. ——I consent
To leave his life to be his punishment.
Discharg'd from trust; branded with infamy.
Let him live on till he ask leave to die.

Ber. Let me petition for him.

Max. ——I have said;
And will not be intreated, but obey'd,
But, Empress, whence does your compassion grow?

Ber. You need not ask it, since my birth you know.
The Race of *Antonin's* was nam'd the Good:
I draw my pity from my Royal Blood.

Max. Still must I be upbraided with your Line?
I know you speak it in contempt of mine.
But your late Brother did not prize me less,
Because I could not boast of Images,
And the Gods own me more when they decreed
A Thracian Shepherd should your Line succeed.

Ber. The Gods! O do not name the Pow'rs Divine,
They never mingled their Decrees with thine.
My Brother gave me to thee for a Wife,
And for my Dowry thou didst take his life.

Max. The Gods by many Victories have shown,
That they my merits and his death did own.

Ber.

Ber. Yes : they have own'd it ; witness this just day ;
When they begin thy mischiefs to repay.

See the reward of all thy wicked care,
Before thee thy succession endeth there.

Yet but in part my Brothers Ghost is pleas'd :

Restless till all the groaning World be eas'd.

For me ; no other happiness I own

Than to have born no Issue to thy Throne.

Max. Provoke my rage no farther, lest I be
Revenge'd at once upon the gods and thee.

Por. *Aside.*] What horrid tortures seize my lab'ring mind !

O, only excellent of all thy kind !

To hear thee threatned while I idle stand :

Heaven ! was I born to fear a Tyrants hand ?

Max. to Ber.] Hence from my sight—thy blood, if thou dost stay—

Ber. Tyrant ! too well to that thou know'st the way.

[*Going.*

Por. Let baser Souls from falling Fortunes flie :

I'll pay my duty to her though I die.

[*Exit leading her.*

Max. What made *Porphyrius* so officious be ?

The action look't as done in scorn of me.

Val. It did, indeed, some little freedom show ;

But somewhat to his services you owe.

Max. Yet if I thought it his presumption were—

Placid. Perhaps he did not your displeasure hear.

Max. My anger was too loud, not to be heard.

Placid. I'm loth to think he did it not regard.

Max. How, not regard !

Val. *Placidius*, you foment,

On too light grounds, my Father's discontent.

But when an action does two faces wear,

'Tis Justice to believe what is most fair.

I think, that knowing what respect there rests

For her late Brother in the Souldiers Breasts.

He went to serve the Emp'ror : and design'd

Only to calm the tempest in her mind,

Lest some Sedition in the Camp should rise.

Max. I ever thought him Loyal as he's wife.

Since therefore all the gods their spite have shown,

To rob my Age of a successive Throne :

And you who now remain,

The only Issue of my former Bed ;

In Empire cannot by your Sex succeed :

To bind *Porphyrius* firmly to the State,

I will this day my *Cæsar* him create :

And, Daughter, I will give you him for Wife.

Val. O day, the best and happiest of my life !

Placid.

The ROYAL MARTYR.

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Placid. O day, the most accurst I ever knew !

[*Aside*

Max. See to my Son perform'd each Funeral due :

Then to the toils of War we will return ;

And make our Enemies our losses mourn.

[*Exeunt.*

ACT II. SCENE I.

The Royal Camp.

Berenice, Porphyrius.

Ber. **P**orphyrius, you too far did tempt your Fate,
In owning her the Emperour does hate.

'Tis true, your Duty to me it became ;
But praising that, I must your Conduct blame.

Por. Not to have own'd my zeal at such a time,
Were to sin higher than your Tyrant's crime.

Ber. 'Twas too much my disgrace t' accompany;
A silent wish had been enough for me.

Por. Wishes are aids, faint Servants may supply,
Who ask Heav'n for you what themselves deny.

Could I do less than my respect to pay,
Where I before had giv'n my heart away ?

Ber. You fail in that respect you seem to bear,
When you speak words unfit for me to hear.

Por. Yet you did once accept those Vows I paid.

Ber. Those Vows were then to *Berenice* made ;
But cannot now be heard without a sin,
When offer'd to the Wife of *Maximin*.

Por. Has, then, the change of Fortune chang'd your Will ?
Ah ! why are you not *Berenice* still ;

To *Maximin* you once declar'd your hate ;
Your Marriage was a Sacrifice to th' State :
Your Brother made it to secure his Throne,
Which this Man made a step to mount it on.

Ber. Whatever *Maximin* has been, or is,
I am to bear, since Heav'n has made me his.
For Wives, who must themselves of pow'r develt,
When they love blindly, for their peace love best.

Por. If mutual Love be vow'd when Faith you plight,
Then he, who forfeits first, has lost his Right.

Ber. Husbands a forfeiture of Love may make ;
But what avails the forfeit none can take ?
As in a general Wreck

The

The Pyrate sinks with his ill-gotten Gains,
And nothing to anothers use remains ;
So, by his loss, no gain to you can fall ;
The Sea, and vast destruction swallows all.

Por. Yet he, who from the shore the Wreck descries,
May lawfully enrich him with the Prize.

Ber. Who sees the Wreck, can yet no Title plead,
Till he be sure the Owner first is dead.

Por. If that be all the claim I want to love,
This Pyrate of your heart I'll soon remove ;
And, at one stroke, the World and you set free.

Ber. Leave to the care of Heav'n that World and me.

Por. Heav'n, as its Instrument, my Courage sends.

Ber. Heav'n ne'er sent those who fight for private ends.
We both are bound by trust, and must be true ;
I to his Bed, and to his Empire you.
For he who to the bad betrays his trust,
Though he does good, becomes himself unjust.

Por. When *Brutus* did, from *Cæsar* Rome redeem,
The Act was good.

Ber. ——— But 'twas not good in him.
You see the Gods adjudg'd it Parriide,
By dooming the Event on *Cæsar*'s side.
'Tis Vertue not to be oblig'd at all ;
Or not conspire our Benefactor's Fall.

Por. You doom me then to suffer all this ill,
And yet I doom my self to love you still.

Ber. Dare not *Porphyrus* suffer then with me,
Since what for him I for my self decree ?

Por. How can I bear those griefs you disapprove ?

Ber. To ease 'em, I'll permit you still to love.

Por. That will but hast my death, if you think fit
Not to reward, but barely to permit.

Love without hope does like a torture wound,
Which makes me reach in pain to touch the Ground.

Ber. If hope, then, to your life so needful be,
Hope still.

Por. ——— Bless'd News !

Ber. ——— But hope, in Heav'n, not me.

Por. Love is too noble such deceits to use,
Referring me to Heav'n, your gift I lose,
So Princes cheaply may our wants supply,
When they give that their Treasurers deny.

Ber. Love blinds my Vertue : if I longer stay,
It will grow dark, and I shall lose my way.

Por. Oae kiss from this fair hand can be no sin ;
I ask not that you gave to *Maximin*.

In full reward of all the pains I've past,
Give me but one.

Ber. — Then let it be your last.

Por. 'Tis gone!

Like Soldiers prodigal of their Arrears,
One minute spends the Pay of many Years.

—— Let but one more be added to the sum,

And pay at once for all my pains to come.

Ber. Unthrifts will starve if we before hand give : *[pulling back her hand]*
I'll see you shall have just enough to live.

[Enter Erotion]

Ero. Madam, the Emperor is drawing near ;
And comes, they say, to seek *Porphyrius* hear.

Ber. Alas !

Por. — I will not ask what he intends ;
My Life, or Death, alone, on you depends.

Ber. I must withdraw ; but must not let him know
How hard the Precepts of my Virtue grow !

[Aside]

But what e'er Fortune is for me design'd,
Sweet Heav'n, be still to brave *Porphyrius* kind !

[Exit cum Erotio]

Por. She's gone unkindly, and refus'd to cast
One glance to feed me for so long a Fast.

Enter Maximin, Placidius, Guards.

Max. *Porphyrius*, since the gods have ravish'd one,
I come in you to seek another Son.

Succeed him then in my Imperial state ;

Succeed in all, but his untimely fate.

If I adopt you with no better grace,

Pardon a Fathers Tears, upon my Face,

And give e'm to *Charinus* memory :

May they not prove as ominous to thee.

Por. With what misfortunes Heav'n torments me still !

Why must I be oblidg'd to one so ill ?

[Aside]

Max. Those offers which I made you, Sir, were such,

No private Man should need to ballance much.

Por. Who durst his thoughts to such ambition lift ?

[Kneeling]

The greatness of it made me doubt the gift.

The distance was so vast, that to my view

It made the object seem at first untrue :

And now 'tis near, the sudden excellence

Strikes through, and flashes on my tender sence.

Max. Yet Heav'n and Earth, which so remote appear

[raising him]

Are by the Air, which flows betwixt 'em, near.

And 'twixt us two, my Daughter be the Chain,

One end with me, and one with you remain.

Por. You press me down with such a glorious Fate,
I cannot rise against the mighty weight.

[Kneeling again]

C

Permit

Permit I may retire some little space,
And gather strength to bear so great a grace.

[Exit bowing.]

Placid. How Love and Fortune lavishly contend,
Which should *Porphyrius* wishes most befriend !
The midstream's his ; I, creeping by the side,
Am shoulder'd off by his impetuous Tide.

[*Aside.*
Enter *Valerius* hastily.]

Val. I hope my business may my haste excuse ;
For, Sir, I bring you most surprizing news,
The Christian Princess in her Tent confers
With fifty of your learn'd Philosophers ;
Whom with such Eloquence she does perswade,
That they are Captives to her reasons made.
I left 'em yielding up their vanquish'd Cause,
And all the Soldiers shouting her applause ;
Ev'n *Apollonius* does but faintly speak,
Whose Voice the murmurs of th' assistants break.

Max. Conduct this Captive Christian to my Tent ;
She shall be brought to speedy punishment.
I must in time some remedy provide,
Lest this contagious Error spread too wide.

[Exit *Valerius*.]

Placid. T' infected Zeal you must no mercy show :
For, from Religion, all Rebellions grow.

Max. The silly crowd, by factious Teachers, brought
To think that Faith untrue their youth was taught,
Run on in new Opinions blindly bold ;
Neglect, contempt, and then assault the old.
Th' infectious madness seizes every part,
And from the head distills upon the heart.
And first they think their Prince's Faith not true,
And then proceed to offer him a new ;
Which if refus'd, all duty from 'em cast,
To their new Faith, they make new Kings at last.

Placid. Those ills by Male-contents are often wrought,
That by their Prince their duty may be bought.
They head those holy Factions which they hate,
To sell their duty at a dearer rate.
But, Sir, the Tribune is already here
With your fair Captive.

Max. ——— Bid 'em both appear.

Enter *S. Catharine*, *Valerius*, *Apollonius*, *Guards*.
See where she comes with that high Air and Meen,
Which marks in bonds, the greatness of a Queen.
What pity 'tis ! ——— but I no charms must see
In her, who to our Gods is Enemy. ———
Fair Foe of Heav'n, whence comes this haughty pride,
Or is it Frenzy does your mind misguide.

[To her,
To

To scorn our Worship, and new Gods to find ?

S. Cath. Nor pride, nor frenzy, but a settled mind,
Enlightened from above, my way does mark.

Max. Though Heav'n be clear, the way to it is dark.

S. Cath. But where our Reason with our Faith does go,
We're both above enlightned, and below.

But Reason with your fond Religion fights,

For many gods are many Infinites :

This to the first Philosophers was known,

Who, under various names, ador'd but one.

Though your vain Poets after did mistake,

Who ev'ry Attribute a God did make.

And so obscene their Ceremonies be,

As good Men loath, and *Cato* blush'd to see.

Max. War is my Province ; Priests, why stand you mute ?
You gain by Heav'n, and therefore should dispute.

Apol. In all Religions, as in ours, there are
Some solid truths, and some things popular.

The popular in pleasing Fables lye,

The Truths in precepts of Morality.

And these to humane life are of that use,

That no Religion can such Rules produce.

S. Cath. Then let the whole dispute concluded be
Betwixt these Rules and Christianity.

Apol. And what more noble can your Doctrine preach,
Than Virtues which Philosophy does teach ?

To keep the passions in severest awe,

To live to Reason (Nature's greatest Law)

To follow Vertue is its own reward ;

And good and ill, as things without, regard.

S. Cath. Yet few could follow those strict Rules they gave ;
For humane Life will humane frailties have :

And love of Vertue is but barren praise,

Airy as Fame : nor strong enough to raise

The actions of the Soul above the fence :

Vertue grows cold without a recompence.

We vertuous Acts as Duty do regard ;

Yet are permitted to expect reward.

Apol. By how much more your Faith reward assures,
So much more frank our Vertue is than yours.

S. Cath. Blind Men ! you seek even those rewards you blame :
But ours are solid, yours an empty name.

Either to open praise your Acts you guide,

Or else reward your selves with secret pride.

Apol. Yet still our Moral Vertues you obey :

Ours are the Precepts, though apply'd your way.

S. Cath. 'Tis true, your Riches are the same we teach;
 But in our practice they much higher reach.
 You but forbid to take anothers due;
 But we forbid even to desire it too.
 Revenge of Injuries you Vertue call,
 But we forgiveness of our wrongs extoll:
 Immodest Deeds you hinder to be wrought,
 But we prescribe the least immodest thought.
 So much your Vertues are in ours refin'd,
 That yours but reach the Actions, ours the mind.

Max. Answer in short to what you heard her speak.

[To Apol.]

Apol. Where Truth prevails, all Arguments are weak,
 To that convincing power I must give place:
 And with that Truth, that Faith I will embrace.

Max. O Traytor to our Gods, but more to me;
 Dar'st thou of any Faith, but of thy Prince's be?
 But sure thou rav'st: thy foolish errour find:
 Cast up the poison that infects thy mind;
 And shun the torments thou art sure to feel,

Apol. Nor fire, nor torture, nor revenging Steel
 Can on my Soul the least Impression make:
 How gladly, Truth, I suffer for thy sake!
 Once I was ignorant of what was so;
 But never can abandon Truth I know:
 My Martyrdom I to thy Crown prefer;
 Truth is a Cause for a Philosopher.

S. Cath. Loose not that Courage which Heav'n does inspire:

[To Apollonius.]

But fearless go to be baptiz'd in fire.
 Think 'tis a Triumph, not a danger near:
 Give him your Blood; but give him not a tear.
 Go, and prepare my Seat: and hovering be
 Near that bright space which is reserv'd for me.

Max. Hence with the Traytor; bear him to his Fate.

Apol. Tyrant, I fear thy pity, not thy hate:
 A Life Eternal I by Death obtain.

Max. Go, carry him, where he that life may gain.

[Exeunt Apollonius, Valerius and Guards.]

Placid. From this Enchantress all these ills are come:
 You are not safe till you pronounce her doom.
 Each hour she lives a Legion sweeps away;
 She'll make your Army Martyrs in a day.

Max. 'Tis just: this Christian Sorceress shall dye:
 (Would I had never prov'd her Sorcery:)
 Not that her charming tongue this change has bred;
 I fear 'tis something that her eyes have fed.

The ROYAL MARTYR.

15

I love: and am asham'd it should be seen.

Placid. Sir, shall she dye?

Max.—Consider she's a Queen.

Placid. Those Claims in *Cleopatra* ended were.

Max. How many *Cleopatra*'s live in her?

Placid. When you condemn'd her, Sir, she was a Queen.

Max. No Slave; she only was a Captive then.

S. Cath. My joyful Sentence you defer too long.

Max. I never knew that Life was such a wrong.

But if you needs will dye,—it shall be so.

—Yet think it does from your perverseness flow.

Men say, indeed, that I in blood delight;

But you shall find—Haste take her from my sight.

—For *Maximin* I have too much confess'd:

And for a Lover not enough express'd.

Absent, I may her Martyrdom decree;

But one look more will make that Martyr me.

[Exit, *S. Cath.* guarded.]

Placid. What is it, Sir, that shakes your mighty mind?

Max. Somewhat I am asham'd that thou should'st find.

Placid. If it be love which does your Soul possess—

Max. Are you my Rival, that so soon you guess?

Placid. Far, mighty Prince, be such a Crime from me,

[Kneeling.]

Which, with the pride, includes impiety.

Could you forgive it, yet the gods above

Would never pardon me a Christian Love.

Max. Thou li'st—there's not a god inhabits there,

But for this Christian would all Heav'n forswear.

Ev'n *Jove* would try more shapes her Love to win:

And in new Birds, and unknown Beasts would sin:

At least, if *Jove* could Love like *Maximin*.

Placid. A Captive, Sir, who would a Martyr die?

Max. She courts not Death, but shuns Captivity.

Great gifts, and greater promises I'll make;

And what Religion is't, but they can shake?

She shall live high: Devotion in distress

Is born, but vanishes in happiness.

[Exit *Maximin*.]

Placid. solus. His Son forgot, his Empress unappeas'd;

How soon the Tyrant with new Love is seiz'd!

Love, various minds, does variously inspire:

He stirs in gentle Natures, gentle fire;

Like that of Incense on the Altars laid:

But raging flames tempestuous Souls invade.

A fire which every windy passion blows;

With pride it mounts, and with revenge it glows.

But I accurs'd who servilely must move;

And sooth his passion for his Daughters Love!

Small

Small hope, 'tis true, attends my mighty care.
But of all passions, Love does last despair.

[Exit]

ACT III. SCENE I.

The Royal Pavillion.

Maximin, Placidius, *Guards and Attendants.*

Max. **T**His Love that never could my youth engage,
Peeps out his Coward Head to dare my age,
Where hast thou been thus long, thou sleeping form,
That wak'st like drowsie Sea-men in a storm?
A fullen hour thou chusest for thy Birth:
My Love shoots up in Tempests, as the Earth
Is stirr'd and loosen'd in a blust'ring Wind,
Whose blasts to waiting Flowers her Womb unbind.

Placid. Forgive me, if I say your passions are
So rough, as if in Love you would make War.
But Love is soft——

And with soft beauty tenderly complies;
In Lips it laughs, and languishes in Eyes.

Max. There let it laugh; or, like an Infant weep:
I cannot such a supple passion keep.
Mine, stiff with Age, and stubborn as my Arms,
Walks upright; stoops not to, but meets her Charms.

Placid. Yet fierceness suits not with her gentle kind;
They brave Assaults; but may be undermin'd.

Max. Till I in those mean Arts am better read,
Court thou, and fawn, and flatter in my stead.

Enter S. Catharine.

She comes; and now, methinks I could obey:
Her Form glides through me, and my heart gives way:
This Iron heart, which no impression took
From Wars, melts down and runs, if she but look.

[Exit Maximin.]

Placid. Madam, I from the Emperor am come
T' applaud your Vertue, and reverse your Doom.
He thinks, whatever your Religion be,
This Palm is owing to your constancy.

S. Cath. My constancy from him seeks no Renown;
Heav'n, that propos'd the Course, will give the Crown.

Placid. But Monarchs are the Gods Vicegerents here;
Heav'n gives rewards; but what it gives they bear:
From Heaven to you th' Egyptian Crown is sent,
Yet 'tis a Prince who does the Gift present.

S. Cath. The Diety I serve, had he thought fit,
Could have preserv'd my Crown unconquer'd yet :
But when his secret Providence design'd
To level that, he levell'd too my mind ;
Which, by contracting its desires, is taught
The humble quiet of possessing nought.

Placid. To Stoicks leave a happiness so mean :
Your Vertue does deserve a nobler Scene.
You are not for obscurity design'd :
But, like the Sun, must cheer all humane kind.

S. Cath. No happiness can be where is no rest ;
Th' unknown, untalk'd of Man is only blest.
He, as in some safe Cliff, his Cell does keep,
From thence he views the labours of the Deep :
The Gold-fraught Vessel which mad Tempests beat,
He sees now vainly makes to his retreat :
And, when from far, the tenth Wave does appear,
Shrinks up in silent joy that he's not there.

Placid. You have a Pilot who your Ship secures ;
The Monarch both of Earth and Seas is yours.
He who so freely gives a Crown away,
Yet asks no Tribute but what you may pay.
One smile on him a greater wealth bestows,
Than *Agypt* yields, when *Nilus* overflows.

S. Cath. I cannot wholly innocent appear,
Since I have liv'd such words as these to hear.
O Heav'n, which dost of chastity take care ! —

Placid. Why do you lose an unregarded Pray'r ?
If happiness, as you believe, be rest,
That quiet sure is by the gods possess'd : —
'Tis greatness to neglect, or not to know
The little business of the World below.

S. Cath. This Doctrine well-befitted him, who thought
A casual World was from wild Atomes wrought :
But such an Order in each chance we see,
(Chain'd to its Cause, as that to its Decree,)
That none can think a Workmanship so rare,
Was built or kept without a Workman's care.

[To them Maximin, Attendants and Guards]

Max. Madam, you from *Placidius* may have heard
Some News, which will your happiness regard.
For what a greater happiness can be,
Than to be courted and be lov'd by me ?
Th' Egyptian Crown I to your hands remit ;
And, with it, take his heart who offers it.
Do you my Person and my Gift contemn ?

[She turns aside.]

S. Cath. My hopes pursue a brighter Diadem.

Max.

Max. Can any brighter than the *Roman* be?

I find my proffer'd Love has cheapen'd me:

Since you neglect to answer my desires,

Know, Princes, you shall burn in other Fires.

—Why should you urge me to so black a deed?

Think all my anger did from Love proceed.

S. Cath. Nor threats, nor promises my mind can move:

Your furious Anger, nor your impious Love.

Max. The Love of you can never impious be;

You are so pure—

That in the Act 'twould change th' impiety.

Heav'n would unmake it sin—

S. Cath. I take my self from thy detested sight:

To my respect thou hast no longer right:

Such pow'r in Bonds true Piety can have,

That I command, and thou art but a Slave.

[Exit. *S. Cath.*]

Max. To what a height of arrogance she swells!

Pride or ill Nature still with Virtue dwells;

Her Death shall set me free this very hour;

—But is her Death within a Lovers pow'r?

Wild with my rage, more wild with my desire,

Like meeting Tides— but mine are tides of fire.

What petty promise was't that caus'd this frown?

Placid. You heard: no less than the Egyptian Crown.

Max. Throw *Egypt's* by, and offer in the stead;

Offer—the Crown on *Berenice's* Head.

I am resolv'd to double till I win;

About it straight, and send *Porphyrius* in.

We look like Eagles tow'ring in the Sky;

While her high flight still raises mine more high.

[Exit *Placid.*]

To him *Porphyrius*.

Por. I come, Sir, to expect your great commands.

Max. My happiness lies only in thy hands.

And, since I have adopted thee my Son,

I'll keep no Secret from thy Breast unknown;

Led by the int'rest of my rising Fate,

I did espouse this Empress whom I hate:

And therefore with less shame I may declare,

That I the Fetters of thy Captive wear.

Por. Sir, you amaze me with so strange a Love.

Max. Pity, my Son, those flames you disapprove.

The cause of Love can never be assign'd;

'Tis in no Face, but in the Lovers mind.

Por. Yet there are Beauties which attract all Hearts;

And all Mankind lies open to their Darts,

Whose Sovereignty, without dispute we grant;

Such Graces, sure, your Empress does not want.

Max.

Max. Beauty has bounds, ———
And can no more to every Heart be so,
Than any Coin through every Land can go.
Some secret Grace, which is but so to me,
Though not so great, may yet more pow'rful be :
All guard themselves when stronger Foes invade ;
Yet, by the weak, surprises may be made :
But you, my Son, are not to judge, but aid.

Por. What is it, Sir, you can require of me?

Max. I would from *Berenice's* Bonds be free,
This Yoke of Marriage from us both remove,
Where two are bound to draw, though neither Love.

Por. Neither the Gods nor Man will give consent,
To put in practise your unjust intent.

Max. Both must consent to that which I decree.

Por. The Soldiers love her Brother's memory ;
And for her sake some Mutiny will stir.

Max. Our parting therefore—— shall be fought by her.
Go, bid her sue for a Divorce, or die ;
I'll cut the knot if she will not unty :
Haste to prepare her, and thy self return ;
Thy *Hymen's* Torch this day with mine shall burn.

[Exit.]

Por. Rather my Funeral Torch ; — for though I know,
Valeria's fair, and that she loves me too.
'Gainst her my Soul is arm'd on every part :
Yet there are secret Rivets to my heart ;
Where *Berenice's* Charms have found the way ;
Subtile as Lightnings, but more fierce than they.
How shall I this avoid, or gain that Love!
So near the Rock, I to the Port must move.

To him, *Valeria* attended.

Val. *Porphyrius*, now my joy I may express,
Nor longer hide the Love I must possess.
Should I have staid 'till Marriage made us one,
You might have thought it was by duty done ;
But of my Heart I now a Present make ;
And give it you e'er it be yours to take.
Accept it as when early fruit we send :
And let the rareness the small gift commend.

Por. Great Monarchs, like your Father, often give,
What is above a Subject to receive :
But faithful Officers should countermand,
And stop the gift that passes through their hand :
And to their Prince, that mass of wealth restore,
Which lavish'd thus, would make whole Nations poor.

Val. But to this gift, a double right you have :
My Father gives but what before I gave.

D

Por

Por. In vain you such unequal Presents make,
Which I still want capacity to take.
Such fatal bounty once the *Gauls* did show ;
They threw their Rings, but threw their Targets too.
Bounty so plac'd, does more like ruin look ;
You pour the Ocean on a narrow Brook.

Val. Yet if your Love before prepares a Boat,
The stream so pour'd, drowns not, but makes it float.

Por. But when the Vessel is on Quick-sands cast,
The flowing Tide does more the sinking hast.

Val. And on what Quick-sands can your heart be thrown ?
Can you a Love besides *Valeria's* own ?

Por. If he who at your Feet his heart would lay,
Be met with first, and robb'd upon the way.
You may indeed the Robbers strength accuse,
But pardon him who did the Present lose.

Val. Who is this Thief that does my right possess ?
Name her and then we of her strength may guess —
From whence does your unwonted silence come ?

Por. She bound and gagg'd me, and has left me dumb.

Val. But of my wrongs I will aloud complain :
False man, thou would'st excuse thy self in vain :
For thee I did a Maidens blush forsake ;
And own'd a Love thou hast refus'd to take.

Por. Refus'd it! — like a Miser midst his store,
Who grasps, and grasps, till he can hold no more ;
And when his strength is wanting to his mind,
Looks back, and sighs on what he left behind.

Val. No, I resume that heart thou didst possess ;
My Father shall my injuries redress :
With me thou lovest his Imperial Crown,
And speedy Death attends upon his frown.

Por. You may revenge your wrongs a nobler way ;
Command my Death, and I will soon obey.

Val. No, live ; for on thy Life my Cure depends :
In Debtors Deaths all obligation ends :
'Twill be some ease ungrateful thee to call ;
And Bankrupt-like, say, trusting him lost all.

Por. Upbraided thus, what gen'rous man would live !
But Fortune will revenge what you forgive.
When I refuse ; (as in few hours I must)
This offer'd grace, your Father will be just.

Val. Be just ! say rather he will cruel prove,
To kill that only person I can love.
Yet so it is ! —

Your int'rest in the Army is so high ;
That he must make you his, or you must die !

The ROYAL MARTYR.

21

It is resolv'd ! who e'er my Rival be,
I'll show that I deserve him more than she.
And if at last he does ingrateful prove,
My constancy it self rewards my Love.

[*Aside after a pause.*]

[*Exit.*]

Por. She's gone, and gazing round about I see
Nothing but death, or glorious misery ;
Here Empire stands, if I could Love displace ;
There, hopeless Love, with more Imperial Grace ;
Thus as a sinking Hero compass'd round,
Beckons his bravest Foe for his last wound,
And him into his part of Fame does call,
I'll turn my face to Love, and there I'll fall.

To him Berenice, Erotion.

Ber. I come, *Porphyrius*, to congratulate
This happy change of your exalted Fate :
You to the Empire are, I hear, design'd
And fair *Valeria* must th' Alliance bind.

Por. Would Heav'n had my succession so decreed,
That I in all might *Maximin* succeed !
He offers me th' Imperial Crown, 'tis true :
I would succeed him, but it is in you.

Ber. In me ! I never did accept your Love ;
But you, I see, would handsomly remove :
And I can give you leave without a frown :
I always thought you merited a Crown.

Por. I never sought that Crown but on your Brow ;
But you with such indiff'rence would allow.
My change, that you have kill'd me with that breath :
I feel your scorn cold as the hand of death.

Ber. You'll come to life in your *Valeria's* arms :
'Tis true, I cannot boast of equal charms ;
Or if I could, I never did admit
Your Love to me, but only suffer'd it.
I am a Wife, and can make no return ;
And 'twere but vain, in hopeless fires to burn.

Por. Unkind ! can you, whom only I adore,
Set open to your Slave the Prison-door ?
You use my heart just as you would afford
A fatal freedom to some harmless Bird,
Whom, breeding, you ne'er taught to seek its food ;
And now let flie to perish in the Wood.

Ber. Then, if you will, love on, and disobey,
And lose an Empire for my sake, you may.
Will a kind look from me pay all this score,
For you well know you must expect no more ?

Por. All I deserve it will, not all I wish :
But I will brave the Tyrant for this,

D 22

If

If I refuse, my death must needs ensue;
But you shall see that I dare die for you.

Ber. Would you for me,
A Beauty, and an Empire too deny?
I love you now so well—— that you shall die,
Die mine; 'tis all I can with honour give:
Nor should you die, if after I would live.
But when your Marriage and your death I view,
That makes you false, but this will keep you true.

Por. Unbind thy brows and look abroad to see,
O mighty Love, thy mightiest Victory!

Ber. And yet—— is there no other way to try?
'Tis hard to say I love, and let you die.

Por. Yes, there remains some help, which you might give,
If you, as I would die for Love, would live.

Ber. If death for Love be sweet, sure life is more:
Teach me the means your safety to restore.

Por. Your Tyrant the *Egyptian* Princess loves;
And to that height his swelling passion moves,
That, fearing in your death the Soldiers force,
He from your Bed does study a Divorce.

Ber. Th' *Egyptian* Princess I disputing heard,
And as a Miracle her Mind regard.
But yet I wish that this Divorce be true.

[Gives her hand.

Por. 'Tis, Madam, but it must be sought by you.
By this he will all Mutinies prevent;
And this, as well, secures your own content.

Ber. I hate this Tyrant, and his bed I loath;
But, once submitting, I am ty'd to both:
Ty'd to that Honour, which all Women owe,
Though not their Husbands Person, yet their Vow.
Something so Sacred in that bond there is,
That none should think there could be ought amiss:
And if there be, we should in silence hide
Those faults, which blame our choice when they are spy'd.

Por. But, since to all the World his crimes are known,
And, by himself the Civil War's begun,
Would you th'advantage of the fight delay,
If, striking first, you were to win the day?

Ber. I would, like Jews upon their Sabbath, fall:
And, rather than strike first, not strike at all.

Por. Against your self you sadly prophesie:
You either this Divorce must seek, or die.

Ber. Then death from all my griefs shall set me free.

Por. And would you rather chuse your death, than me.

Ber. My earthy part——

Which

Which is my Tyrants right, death will remove,
 I'll come all Soul and Spirit to your Love.
 With silent Steps I'll follow you all day ;
 Or else before you, in the Sun-beams, play.
 I'll lead you thence to melancholy Groves,
 And there repeat the Scenes of our past Loves.
 At night, I will within your Curtains peep ;
 With empty arms embrace you while you sleep.
 In gentle dreams I often will be by ;
 And sweep along, before your closing eye.
 All dangers from your Bed I will remove ;
 But guard it most from any future Love.
 And when at last, in pity you will die :
 I'll watch your Birth of Immortality :
 Then Turtle-like I'll to my Mate repair ;
 And teach you your first flight in open Air. [Exit Berenice cum Erotio.
Por. She has but done what Honour did require :
 Nor can I blame that Love, which I admire.
 But then her death !
 I'll stand betwixt, it first shall pierce my heart :
 We will be stuck together on his dart.
 But yet the danger not so high does grow :
 I'll charge death first, perhaps repulse him too.
 But, if o'r-pow'r'd, I must be over-come ;
 Forc'd back, I'll fight each inch into my Tomb. [Exit.

ACT IV. SCENE I.

Indian Cave

Placidius, Nigrinus. *Nigrinus with two drawn Swords,
 held upwards in his hands.*

Placid. **A**LL other means have fail'd to move her heart ;
 Our last recourse is therefore to your Art.

Nig. Of Wars, and Bloodshed, and of dire Events,
 Of Fates, and fighting Kings, their Instruments,
 I could with greater certainty foretel ;
 Love only does in doubts and darkness dwell :
 For, like a Wind, it in no quarter stays ;
 But points and veers each hour a thousand ways.
 On Women Love depends, and they on Will ;
 Chance turns their Orb, while Destiny sits still.

Placid. Leave nothing unattempted in your pow'r :
 Remember you oblige an Emperour.

Nig.

TYRANNICK LOVE; Or,

Nig. An earthy Fiend by compact me obeys;
 But him to light intents I must not raise,
 Some Astral forms I must invoke by pray'r,
 Fram'd all of purest Atoms of the Air;
 Not in their Natures simply good or ill;
 But most subservient to bad Spirits will.
Nakar of those does lead the mighty Band,
 For eighty Legions move at his Command:
 Gentle to all, but far above the rest,
 Mild *Nakar* loves his soft *Damilcar* best.
 In Aery Chariots they together ride;
 And sip the Dew as through the Clouds they glide:
 These are the Spirits which in Love have pow'r.

Placid. Haste, and invoke 'em in a happy hour.

Nig. And so it proves: for, counting sev'n from Noon,
 'Tis *Venus* hour, and in the waxing Moon,
 With Chalk I first describe a Circle here,
 Where these Ætherial Spirits must appear.
 Come in, come in; for here they will be strait:
 Around, around, the place I fumigate:
 My fumigation is to *Venus*, just:
 The Souls of Roses, and red Corals dust:
 A lump of *Sperma Ceti*; and to these
 The stalks and chips of *Lignum Aloes*.
 And, last, to make my fumigation good,
 'Tis mixt with Sparrows brains, and Pigeons blood. *Nigrinus* takes up the Swords.
 They come, they come, they come! I hear 'em now.

Placid. A death-like damp sits cold upon my brow:
 And misty vapours swim before my sight.

Nig. They come not in a shape to cause your fright.

Nakar and Damilcar descend in Clouds, and sing.

Nakar. Hark, my *Damilcar*, we are call'd below!

Dam. Let us go, let us go!

Go to relieve the care

Of longing Lovers in despair!

Nakar. Merry, merry, merry, we sail from the East,
 Half tiptled at a Rain-bow Feast.

Dam. In the bright Moon-shine, while winds whistle loud,
 Tivy, tivy, tivy, we mount and we fly,
 All racking along in a downy white Cloud:
 And lest our leap from the Skie should prove too far,
 We slide on the back of a new falling Star.

Nakar. And drop from above,
 In a Gelly of Love!

Dam. But now the Sun's down, and the Element's red:
 The Spirits of Fire against us make head!

Nakar.

Nakar. *They muster, they muster, like Gnats in the Air :
Alas ! I must leave thee, my Fair ;
And to my light Horse-men repair.*

Dam. *O stay, for you need not to fear 'em to night ;
The wind is for us, and blows full in their sight :
And o'er the wide Ocean we fight !
Like leaves in the Autumn our Foes will fall down ;
And hiss in the water——*

Both. *And hiss in the Water, and drown !*

Nakar. *But their men lie securely intrench'd in a Cloud :
And a Trumpeter-Hornet to Battle sounds loud*

Dam. *Now Mortals that spie
How we tilt in the Skie
With wonder will gaze :*

And fear such events as will nev'r come to pass !

Nakar. *Stay you to perform what the Man will have done.*

Dam. *Then call me again when the Battle is won.*

Both. *So ready and quick is a Spirit of Air
To pity the Lover, and succour the fair,
That, silent and swift, that little soft God,
Is here with a wish, and is gone with a nod.*

The Clouds part, Nakar flies up, and Damilcar down.

Nig. *I charge thee, Spirit, stay ; and by the pow'r
Of Nakar's Love, and of this holy Wand.
On the North quarter of my Circle stand.
(Sev'n foot around for my defence I take !)
To all my questions faithful answers make ;
So may'st thou live thy thousand years in peace,
And see thy Aery Progeny increase :
So may'st thou still continue young and fair,
Fed by the blast of pure Ætherial Air.
And, thy full term expir'd, without all pain,
Dissolve into thy Astral Source again.*

Dam. *Name not my hated Rival Gemory,
And I'll speak true what e'r thy questions be.*

Nig. *Thy Rival's hated name I will refrain :
Speak, shall the Emperour his Love obtain ?*

Dam. *Few hours shall pass before your Emperour shall be
Possess'd of that he loves, or from that love be free.*

Placid. *Shall I enjoy that Beauty I adore ?*

Dam. *She Suppliant-like, e'r long, thy succour shall implore :
And thou with her thou lov'st in happiness may'st live :
If she not dies before, who all thy joys can give.*

Nig. *Say, what does the Egyptian Princess now ?*

Dam. *A gentle slumber sits upon her brow.*

Nig. *Go stand before her in a golden dream ;*

Set all the pleasures of the World to show,
And in vain joys let her loose Spirit flow.

Dam. Twice fifty Tents remove her from your sight,
But I'll cut through 'em all with rays of light :
And covering other objects to your Eyes,
Show where intranc'd in silent sleep she lies.

Damilcar stamps and the Bed arises with S. Catherine in it.

Dam. singing *You pleasing Dreams of Love and sweet delight*

Appear before this slumbring Virgins sight :

Soft Visions set her free

From mournful piety.

Let her sad thoughts from Heav'n retire ;

And let the Melancholy Love

Of those remoter joys above

Give place to your more sprightly fire.

Let purling Streams be in her fancy seen ;

And flow'ry Meads, and Vales of cheerful Green ;

And in the midst of deathless Groves

Soft sighing wishes ly,

And smiling hopes fast by,

And just beyond 'em ever-laughing Loves:

A Scene of a Paradise is discovered.

Placid. Some pleasing Objects do her mind employ ;
For on her face I read a wandering joy.

SONG.

Dam.

Ah how sweet it is to love,

Ah how gay is young desire !

And what pleasing pains we prove

When we first approach Loves fire !

Pains of Love be sweeter far

Than all other pleasures are.

Sighs which are from Lovers blown,

Do but gently heave the Heart :

Ev'n the Tears They shed alone

Cure like trickling Balms their smart.

Lovers when they lose their breath,

Bleed away in easy Death.

Love and Time with reverence use,

Treat 'em like a parting Friend :

Nor the golden gifts refuse

Which in youth sincere they send :

For each Tear their price is more,

And they less simple than before.

*Love, like Spring-Tides full and high,
Swells in every youthful vein :
But each Tide does less supply,
Till they quite shrink in again :
If a flow in Age appear,
'Tis but rain, and runs not clear.*

At the end of the Song, a Dance of Spirits. After which Amariel, the Guardian-Angel of St. Catharine, descends to soft Musick, with a flaming Sword. The Spirits crawl off the Stage amazedly, and Damilcar runs to a Corner of it.

Amar. From the bright Empire of Eternal Day,
Where waiting minds for Heav'n's Commission stay,
Amariel flies : (a darted Mandate came
From that great Will which moves this mighty frame,
Bid me to thee, my Royal Charge, repair,
To guard thee from the Dæmons of the Air ;
My flaming Sword, above 'em to display,
(All keen and ground upon the edge of day ;)
The flap to sweep the Visions from thy mind,
The edge to cut 'em through that stay behind.)
Vain Spirits, you that shunning Heav'n's high Noon,
Swarm here beneath the concave of the Moon,
What folly, or what rage your duty blinds,
To violate the sleep of holy minds ?
Hence to the task assign'd you here below :
Upon the Ocean make loud tempests blow :
Into the Wombs of hollow Clouds repair,
And crush out Thunder from the bladder'd Air.
From pointed Sun-beams take the Mists they drew,
And scatter 'em again in pearly dew :
And of the bigger drops they drain below,
Some mould in Hail, and others stamp in Snow.

Dam. Mercy, bright Spirit, I already feel :
The piercing edge of thy immortal steel :
Thou, Prince of day, from Elements Art free ;
And I all body when compar'd to thee.
Thou tread'st th' Abyss of light !
And where it streams with open Eyes canst go :
We wander in the Fields of Air below :
Changlings and Fools of Heav'n : and thence shut out,
Wildly we roam in discontent about :
Gross-heavy-fed, next Man in ignorance and sin,
And spotted all without, and dusky all within.
Without thy Sword I perish by thy sight,
I reel, and stagger, and am drunk with light.

Ama. If e'er again thou on this place art found ;
Full fifty years I'll chain thee under ground ;

The damps of Earth shall be thy daily food ;
 All swoln and bloated like a dungeon toad :
 And when thou shalt be freed, yet thou shalt ly }
 Gasping upon the ground, too faint to fly ; }
 And lag below thy fellows in the sky.

Dam. O pardon, pardon, this accursed Deed,
 And I no more on Magick fumes will feed ;
 Which drew me hither by their pow'rful streams.

Ama. S. Cath.] Go expiate thy guilt in holy dreams
 But thou, sweet Saint, henceforth disturb'd no more
 With dreams not thine, thy thoughts to Heav'n restore.

[*Ex. Dana.*]

The Angel ascends, and the Scene shuts.

Nig. Some holy Being does invade this place,
 And from their duty does my Spirits chafe.

I dare no longer near it make abode :

No Charms prevail against the Christian's God.

[*Exit.*]

Placid. How doubtfully these Spectres Fate foretel !
 In double sence, and twi-light truth they dwell :
 Like fawning Courtiers, for success they wait,
 And then come smiling and declare for Fate.

Enter Maximin and Porphyrius, attended by Valerius and Guards.
 But see, the Tyrant and my Rival come :
 I, like the Fiends, will flatter in his Doom :
 None but a Fool distastful truth, will tell,
 So it be new, and please, 'tis full as well.

Placid. whispers with the Emperor, who seems pleas'd.

Max. You charm me with your News, which I'll reward :
 By hopes we are for coming joys prepar'd :
 Possess her Love, or from that Love be free——
 Heav'n speaks me fair : if she as kind can prove,
 I shall possess, but never quit my Love.
 Go, tell me when she wakes——

[*Exit Placidius.*]

Porphyrius seems to beg something of him.

—— *Porphyrius,* no ;
 She has refus'd and I will keep my Vow.

Por. For your own sake, your cruel Vow defer ;
 The time's unsafe your Enemies are near.
 And to displease your men when they should fight——

Max. My looks alone my Enemies will fright ;
 And o'er my Men I'll set my careful Spies,
 To watch Rebellion in their very Eyes.
 No more, I cannot bear the least reply.

Por. Yet, Tyrant, thou shalt perish e'er she dye.

[*Aside.*]

Enter Valeria.

Valeria here ! how Fortune treats me still
 With various harms, magnificently ill !

ax. M

Max. *Valeria*, I was sending to your Tent,
But my Commands your presence does prevent.
This is the hour wherein the Priest shall joyn
Your holy Loves, and make *Porphyrius* mine.

[To *Valeria*.

Val. aside.] Now hold, my heart, and *Venus* I implore,
Be Judge if she he loves deserves him more.

Por. aside.] Past hope! and all in vain I would preserve
My Life, not for my self, but her I serve.

Val. I come, Great Sir, your Justice to demand.

[To the Emp.

Max. You cannot doubt it from a Father's hand.

Por. Sir, I confess before her Suit be known;
And, by my self condemn'd, my crime I own.
I have refus'd——

Val.——Peace, Peace, while I confess
I have refus'd thee for unworthiness.

Por. I am amaz'd.

Max.——What Riddles do you use?
Dare either of you my Commands refuse?

Val. Yes, I dare own howe'er 'twas wisely done
T' adopt so mean a person for your Son:
So low you should not for your Daughter chuse:
And therefore, Sir, this Marriage I refuse.

Max. You lik'd the Choice when first I thought it fit.

Val. I had not then enough consider'd it.

Max. And you have now consider'd it too much:
Secrets of Empire are not safe to touch.

Por. Let not your mighty anger rise too high;
'Tis not *Valeria* merits it, but I.
My own unworthiness so well I knew,
That from her Love I consciously withdrew.

Val. Thus rather than endure the little shame
To be refus'd, you blast a Virgin's name.
You to refuse, and I to be deny'd!
Learn more discretion, or be taught less pride.

Por. O Heav'n, in what a Lab'rinth am I led!
I could get out, but she detains the Thread!
Now I must wander on till I can see,
Whether her pity or revenge it be!

[*Aside.*

Max. With what Child's anger do you think you play?
I'll punish both, if either disobey.

Val. Since all the fault was mine, I am content
Porphyrius should not share the punishment.

Por. Blind that I was till now, that could not see,
'Twas all th' effects of generosity.
She loves me, ev'n to suffer for my sake;
And on her self would my refusal take.

[*Aside.*
Max.

Max. Children to serve their Parents int'rest live.
Take heed what Doom against your self you give.

[To Val.]

For. Since she must suffer, if I do not speak,
'Tis time the Laws of Decency to break.
She told me Sir, that she your Choice approv'd,
And (though I blush to own it) said she lov'd,
Lov'd me desertless, who, with shame, confess
Another Flame had seiz'd upon my Breast.
Which when, too late, the generous Princess knew,
And fear'd your Justice would my Crime pursue,
Upon her self she makes the Tempests fall,
And my refusal her contempt would call.

Val. He raves, Sir, and to cover my disdain,
Unhandsomly would his denial feign.
And all means failing him, at last would try
T' usurp the credit of a scorn, and dye.
But——let him live——his punishment shall be
The grief his pride will bring for losing me.

Max. You both obnoxious to my Justice are ;
And, Daughter, you have not deserv'd my care.
'Tis my Command you strictly guarded be,
Till your fantastick Quarrel you agree.

For. Sir, ——

Max. I'll not hear you speak, her crime is plain,
She owns her pride which you perhaps may feign.
She shall be Prisoner till she bend her mind
To that which is for both of you design'd.

Val. You'll find it hard my free-born Will to bound.

Max. I'll find that pow'r o'er Wills which Heav'n ne'er found.
Free Will's a Cheat in any one but me ;
In all but Kings 'tis willing Slavery.
An unseen Fate which forces the desire,
The Will of Puppets danc'd upon a Wire.

A Monarch is
The Spirit of the World in every mind ;
He may match Wolves to Lambs, and make it kind.
Mine is the business of your little Fates :
And though you War, like petty wrangling States,
You'r in my hand ; when I bid you cease,
You shall be crush'd together into peace.

Val. *Aside.* Thus by the World my courage will be priz'd ;
Seeming to scorn, who am, alas, despis'd :
Dying for Love's, fulfilling Honour's Laws ;
A secret Martyr while I own no Cause.

[Exit Valeria.]

Max. *Porphyrius,* stay there's something I would hear :
You said you lov'd, and you must tell me where.

For.

[Aside.

Por. All Heav'n is to my Soul destruction bent.

Max. You would, it seems, have leasure to invent.

Por. Her name in pity, Sir, I must forbear,
Left my offences you revenge on her.

Max. My promise for her Life I do engage.

Por. Will that, Sir, be remembered in your rage?

Max. Speak, or your silence more my rage will move;
'Twill argue, that you rival me in Love.

Por. Can you believe that my ambitious Flame
Should mount so high as *Berenice's* name?

Max. Your guilt dares not approach what it would hide;
But draws me off, and (*Lapwing-like*) flies wide.

'Tis not my Wife, but Mistress you adore:
Though that affronts, yet this offends me more:
Who courts my Wife——

Does to my Honour more injurious prove;
But he who courts my Mistress, wrongs my Love.

Por. Th' *Egyptian* Princess ne'er could move my heart.

Max. You could not perish by a nobler Dart.

Por. Sir, I presume not Beauties to compare:
But in my Eye my Princess is as fair.

Max. Your Princess! then it seems, though you deny
Her Name you love, you own her Quality.

Por. Though not by Birth or Title so; yet she
Who rules my heart, a Princess is to me.

Max. No, no——

'Tis plain that word you unawares did use,
And told a truth which now you would excuse.
Besides my Wife and Mistress, here are none
Who can the Title of a Princess own.

Por. There is one more——
Your Daughter, Sir: let that you doubt remove.

Max. But she is not that Princess whom you love.

Por. I nam'd not love, though it might doubtful seem;
She's fair; and is that Princess I esteem.

Max. Go, and to passion your esteem improve,
While I command her to receive your Love.

[Exit Por.

Enter S. Catharine.

S. Cath. I come not now as Captive to your pow'r,
To beg; but as high Heaven's Ambassador,
The Laws of my Religion to fulfill:
Heav'n sends me to return you Good for ill.
Your Empress to your Love I would restore;
And to your Mind the Peace it had before.

Max. While in anothers Name you Peace declare,
Princess, you in your own proclaim a War.

Your

Your too great pow'r does your design oppose;
You make those Breaches which you strive to close.

S. Cath. That little Beauty which too much you prize,
Seeks not to move your Heart, or draw your Eyes :
Your love to *Berenice* is due alone :

Love, like that pow'r which I adore, is one.
When fixt to one, it safe at Anchor rides,
And dares the fury of the Winds and Tides :
But losing once that hold, to the wide Ocean born,
It drives away at will, to every Wave a scorn.

Max. If to new persons I my Love apply,
The Stars and Nature are in fault, not I :
My Loves are like my old Prætorian Bands,
Whose Arbitrary pow'r their Prince Commands ;
I can no more make Passion come or go,
Than you can bid your *Nilus* ebb or flow.
'Tis lawless, and will love, and where it list :
And that's no sin which no Man can resist :
Those Who impute it to me as a Crime,
Would make a God of me before my time.

S. Cath. A God indeed after the *Roman* Style,
An Eagle mounting from a kindled Pile :
But you may make your self a God below :
For Kings who rule their own desires are so.
You roam about, and never are at rest ;
By new desires, that is, new Torments, still possess.
Qualmish and loathing all you had before :
Yet with a sickly appetite to more.
As in a Fev'rish Dream you still drink on ;
And wonder why your thirst is never gone.
Love, like a Ghostly Vision, haunts your mind ;
'Tis still before you what you left behind.

Max. How can I help those faults which Nature made ?
My Appetite is sickly and decay'd,
And you forbid me change (the sick Mans ease)
Who cannot Cure, must humour his Disease.

S. Cath. Your mind should first the Remedy begin ;
You seek without, the Cure that is within.
The vain Experiments you make each day,
To find content, still finding it decay,
Without attempting more, should let you see
That you have sought it where it ne'er could be.
But when you place your Joys on things above,
You fix the wandering Planet of your Love :
Thence you may see
Poor humane kind all daz'd in open day,
Err after Bliss, and blindly miss their way :

The greatest happiness a Prince can know,
Is to love Heav'n above, do good below.

To them Berenice, and Attendants.

Ber. That happiness may *Berenice* find,
Leaving these empty Joys of Earth behind :
And this frail Being, where so short a while
Th' unfortunate lament, and prosp'rous smile.
Yet a few days, and those which now appear
In Youth and Beauty, like the blooming Year,
In life's sweet Scene shall change ; and cares shall come:
And heavy Age, and Death's relentless doom.

S. Cath. Yet Man, by pleasures seeks that Fate which he would shun,
And suck'd in by the stream, does to the Whirl-Pool run.

Max. How, Madam, are you to new ways inclin'd ?
I fear the Christian Sect perverts your mind.

[To *Ber.*

Ber. Yes, Tyrant, know that I their Faith embrace,
And own it in the midst of my disgrace.
That Faith, which abject as it seems to thee,
Is nobler than thy Purple Pageantry ;
A Faith, which still with Nature is at strife ;
And looks beyond it to a future life.
A Faith which vicious Souls abhor and fear,
Because it shews Eternity too near.
And therefore every one ———

With seeming scorn of it the rest deceives :
All joining not to own what each believes.

S. Cath. O happy Queen ! whom Pow'r leads not astray,
Nor Youth's more powerful blandishments betray.

Ber. Your Arguments my reason first inclin'd,
And then your bright Example fix'd my mind.

Max. With what a holy Empress am I blest,
What scorn of Earth dwells in her Heav'nly breast !
My Crown's too mean ; but he whom you adore,
Has one more bright, of Martyrdom in store.
She dies and I am from the Envy freed :
She has, I thank her, her own Death decreed.
No Soldier, now, will in her rescue stir ;
Her Death is but in complaisance to her.
I'll haste to gratify her holy Will ;
Heav'n grant her Zeal may but continue still.

[*Aside.*

To Val. Tribune, a Guard to seize the Empress strait,
Secure her Person Pris'ner to the State.

[*Ex Maxim.*

Val. going to her. Madam, believe 'tis with regret I come
To execute my angry Prince's doom.

Enter Porphyrius.

Por. What is it I behold ! Tribune, from whence
Proceeds this more than barbarous insolence ?

Val

Val. Sir, I perform the Emperour's Commands.

Por. Villain, hold off thy sacrilegious hands,
Or by the gods—— retire without reply :
And, if he asks who bid thee, say 'twas I.

[*Valerius retires to a distance.*]

Ber. Too generously your safety you expose
To save one moment her whom you must lose.

Por. 'Twixt you and death ten thousand lives there stand ;
Have Courage, Madam, the *Prætorian* Band
Will all oppose your Tyrants Cruelty.

S. Cath. And I have Heav'n implor'd she may not die.
As some to witness Truth, Heav'n's call obey ;
So some on Earth must, to confirm it, stay.

Por. What Faith, what Witness is it that you name ?

Ber. Knowing what she believes, my Faiths the same.

Por. How am I cross'd what way so'er I go !
To the unlucky every thing is so.
Now, Fortune, thou hast shewn thy utmost spight :
The Soldiers will not for a Christian fight.
And, Madam, all that I can promise now,
Is but to die before Death reaches you.

Ber. Now Death draws near, a strange perplexity
Creeps coldly on me, like a fear to die ;
Courage, uncertain Dangers may abate ;
But who can bear th' approach of certain Fate ?

S. Cath. The wisest and the best some fear may shew ;
And wish to stay, though they resolve to go.

Ber. As some faint Pilgrim standing on the shore,
First views the Torrent he would venture o'er ;
And then his Inn upon the farther ground,
Loth to wade through, and lother to go round ;
Then dipping in his Staff do's trial make,
How deep it is ; and, sighing, pulls it back,
Sometimes resolv'd to fetch his leap ; and then
Runs to the Bank, but there stops short agen ;
So I at once ——

Both Heav'nly Faith, and humane Fear obey ;
And feel before me in an unknown way.
For this blest Voyage I with Joy prepare ;
Yet am ashamed to be a stranger there.

S. Cath. You are not yet enough prepar'd to die :
Earth hangs too heavy for your Soul to flie.

Por. One way (and Heav'n, I hope, inspires my mind)
I for your safety in this straight can find :
But this fair Queen must farther my intent.

S. Cath. Name any way your Reason can invent.

Por.

Por. to Ber. Though your Religion (which I cannot blame,
Because my secret Soul avows the same)
Has made your Life a forfeit to the Laws,
The Tyrant new-born Passion is the cause.
Were this bright Princess once remov'd away,
Wanting the food, the flame would soon decay.
And I'll prepare a faithful Guard this night
T' attend her person, and secure her flight.

Ber. to S. Cath. By this way I shall both from Death be freed,
And you unforc'd to any wicked Deed.

S. Cath. Madam, my thoughts are with themselves at strife;
And Heav'n can witness how I prize your Life:
But 'tis a doubtful Conflict I must try
Betwixt my Pity and my Piety.
Staying your precious Life I must expose:
Going, my Crown of Martyrdom I lose.

Por. Your equal choice when Heav'n does thus divide,
You should, like Heav'n, still lean on Mercy's side.

S. Cath. The Will of Heav'n, judg'd by a private Breast,
Is often what's our private Interest.
And therefore those, who would that Will obey,
Without their int'rest must their Duty weigh.
As for my self, I do not Life despise;
But as the greatest gift of Nature prize.
My Sex is weak, my fears of Death are strong;
And whate'er is, its Being would prolong.
Were there no sting in Death, for me to die,
Would not be Conquest, but stupidity.
But if vain Honour can confirm the Soul,
And sense of shame the fear of Death control,
How much more then should Faith uphold the Mind,
Which, shewing Death, shews future Life behind?

Ber. Of Death's contempt Heroick Proofs you give:
But, Madam, let my weaker Vertue live:
Your Faith may bid you your own life resign;
But not when yours must be involv'd with mine.
Since, then, you do not think me fit to dye,
Ah! how can you that Life I beg, deny!

S. Cath. Heav'n does in this my greatest trial make,
When I for it the care of you forsake.
But I am plac'd as on a Theatre,
Where all my Acts to all Mankind appear, }
To imitate my constancy or fear.

Then, Madam, judge what course I should pursue,
When I must either Heav'n forsake, or you.

Por. Were saving *Berenice's* Life a sin,
Heav'n had shut up your Flight from *Maximin*.

F

S. Cath.

S. Cath. Thus with short Plummets Heav'ns deep Will we found,
That vast Abyſs where humane Wit is drown'd!
In our ſmall Skiff we muſt not launch too far;
We here but Coaſters, not Discoverers are.
Faith's neceſſary Rules are plain and few;
We many, and thoſe needleſs, Rules purſue:
Faith from our hearts into our heads we drive;
And make Religion all Contemplative.
You on Heav'ns Will may witty Gloſſes feign;
But that which I muſt practice here, is plain:
If the All-great Decree her Life to ſpare,
He will, the means, without my Crime prepare.

[Exit *S. Cath.*]

Por. Yet there is one way left! it is decreed
To ſave your Life, that *Maximin* ſhall bleed.
'Midſt all his Guards I will his Death purſue,
Or fall a Sacrifice to love and you.

Ber. So great a fear of Death I have not ſhown,
That I would ſhed his Blood to ſave my own.
My fear is but from humane frailty brought,
And never mingled with a wicked thought.

Por. 'Tis not a Crime, ſince one of you muſt dye;
Or is excus'd by the neceſſity.

Ber. I cannot to a Husband's Death conſent;
But, by revealing, will your Crime prevent:
The horror of this Deed ———
Againſt the fear of Death has arm'd my mind;
And now leſs guilt in him than you I find:
If I a Tyrant did deteſt before,
I hate a Rebel and a Traytor more:
Ungrateful man ———
Remember whoſe Succeſſor thou art made,
And then thy Benefactors Life invade.
Guards to you: Charge, I give your Priſ'ner back:
And will from none but Heav'n my ſafety take.

[Exit with *Valerius* Guards.]

Por. ſolus. 'Tis true, what ſhe has often urg'd before;
He's both my Father and my Emperour!
O Honour, how canſt thou invent a way
To ſave my Queen, and not my truſt betray!
Unhappy I, that e'er he truſted me!
As well his Guardian-Angel may his Murd'rer be.
And yet——let Honour, Faith, and Vertue flie,
But let not love in *Berenice* die.
She lives! ———
That's put beyond Diſpute, as firm as Fate:
Honour and Faith let Argument debate.

Enter

Enter Maximin and Valerius talking, and Guards.

Max. 'Tis said, but I am loth to think it true,
That my late Orders were condemn'd by you:
That *Berenice* from her Guards you freed.

Por. I did it, and I glory in the Deed.

Max. How! glory my Commands to disobey?

Por. When those Commands would your Renown betray.

Max. Who should be Judge of that Renown you name
But I?

Por. ——— Yes I, and all who love your Fame,

Max. *Porphyrius*, your Replies are insolent.

Por. Sir, they are just, and for your service meant.

If, for Religion, you our Lives will take;

You do not the Offenders find, but make.

All Faiths are to their own Believers just;

For none believe, because they will, but must.

Faith is a force from which there's no defence;

Because the Reason it does first convince,

And Reason Conscience into Fetters brings;

And Conscience is without the pow'r of Kings.

Max. Then Conscience is a greater Prince than I:

At whose each erring Call a King may dye.

Who Conscience leaves to its own free Command,

Put's the worst Weapon in a Rebel's hand.

Por. Its Empire, therefore, Sir, should bounded be;
And but in Acts of its Religion free:

Those who ask Civil Pow'r and Conscience too,

Their Monarch to his own Destruction woo.

With needful Arms let him secure his Peace;

Then, that wild Beast he safely may release.

Max. I can forgive these Liberties you take,

While but my Councillour your self you make:

But you first act your sense, and then advise:

That is, at my expence you will be wise.

My Wife, I for Religion do not kill;

But she shall dye—because it is my Will.

Por. Sir, I acknowledge I too much have done;

And therefore merit not to be your Son:

I render back the Honours which you gave;

My Liberty's the only Gift I crave.

Max. You take too much: —but e'er you lay it down

Consider what you part with in a Crown:

Monarchs of Cares in Policy complain.

Because they would be pity'd while they reign;

For still the greater troubles they confess,

They know their Pleasures will be envy'd less.

[To *Porph.*

Por. Those Joys I neither envy nor admire ;
But beg I from the troubles may retire.

Max. What Soul is this which Empire cannot stir !
Supine and tame as a Philosopher !
Know then, thou wert adopted to a Throne,
Not for thy sake so much as for my own.
My thoughts were once about thy Death at strife ;
And thy Succession's thy Reprieve of Life.

Por. My Life and Death are still within your pow'r :
But your Succession I renounce this hour.

Upon a Bloody Throne I will not sit ;
Nor share the guilt of Crimes which you commit.

Max. If you are not my *Cæsar*, you must dye.

Por. I take it as the nobler Destiny.

Max. I pity thee, and would thy faults forgive :
But thus presuming on, thou canst not live.

Por. Sir, with your Throne your pity I restore ;
I am your Foe ; nor will I use it more.
Now all my Debts of Gratitude are paid,
I cannot trusted be, nor you betray'd

[Is going.

Max. Stay, stay ! in threat'ning me to be my Foe,
You give me warning to conclude you so.
Thou to succeed a Monarch in his Seat !

[Enter Placidius.

No, Fool, thou art too honest to be Great ;
Placidius, on your Life this Pris'ner keep :
Our enmity shall end before I sleep.

Placid. I still am ready, Sir, whene'er you please.
To do you such small Services as these.

[To Porph.

Max. The sight with which my eyes shall first be fed,
Must by my Empress, and this Traytor's Head.

Por. Where e'er thou stand'st, I'll level at that place
My gushing Bloud, and spout it at thy face.

Thus, not by Marriage, we our Blood will join :
Nay more, my Arms shall throw my Head at thine.

[Exit guarded.

Max. There : go Adoption : — I have now decreed,
That *Maximin* shall *Maximin* succeed ,
Old as I am in pleasures I will try
To waste an Empire yet before I dye :
Since Life is fugitive, and will not stay,
I'll make it flie more pleasantly away.

[Exit.

ACT

ACT V. SCENE I.

Valeria, Placidius.

Val. IF, as you say, you silently have been
So Long my Lover, let my pow'r be seen :
One hours discourse before *Porphyrius* dye,
Is all I ask, and you too may be by.

Placid. I must not break
The Order, which the Emperour did sign.

Val. Has then his hand more pow'r with you than mine ?

Placid. This hand if given, would far more powerful be,
Than all the Monarchs of the World to me :
But 'tis a Bait which would my heart betray ;
And, when I'm fast, will soon be snatch'd away.

Val. O say not so, for I shall ever be
Oblig'd to him who once obliges me.

Placid. Madam, I'll wink, and favour your deceit :
But know fair Coz'ner, that I know the Cheat :
Though to these Eyes I nothing can refuse,
I'll not the merit of my ruin lose :
It is enough I see the hook, and bite :
But first I'll pay my death with my delight.

[Kisses her hand and Exit.]

Val. What can I hope from this sad interview !
And yet my brave design I will pursue.
By many signs I have my Rival found :
But fortune him, as deep as me, does wound.
For, if he loves the Empress, his sad Fate
More moves my pity, than his scorn my hate.

To her Placidius with Porphyrius :

Placid. I am, perhaps, the first
Who forc'd by Fate, and in his own despite,
Brought a lov'd Rival to his Mistress sight.

Val. But, in revenge, let this your comfort be,
That you have brought a Man who loves not me.
However, lay your causeless envy by ;
He is a Rival who must quickly die.

Por. And yet I could with less concernment bear
That death of which you speak, than see you here.
So much of guilt in my refusal lies,
That, Debtor-like, I dare not meet your Eyes.

Val. I do not blame you if you love else where :
And, would to Heav'n, I could your suff'rings bear ;
Or once again could some new way invent
To take upon my self your punishment :

I sent

I sent for you, to let you know that still

(Though now I want the pow'r) I have the will.

Placid. Can all this Ocean of your kindness be
Pour'd upon him, and not one drop on me?

Val. 'Tis pour'd; but falls from this ungrateful Man,
Like drops of water from a rising Swan.

Upon his breast no sign of wet remains;
He bears his Love more proudly than his Chains.

Por. This thankless Man his death will soon remove,
And quickly end so undeserv'd a Love.

Val. Unthankful as you are, I know not why,
But still I love too well to see you die.

Placidius, can you love, and see my grief,
And for my sake not offer some relief?

Placid. Not all the Gods his ruin shall prevent;
Your kindness does but urge his punishment.

Besides, what can I for his safety do?

He has declar'd himself your Father's Foe.

Val. Give out he is escap'd, and set him free:

And, if you please, lay all the fault on me.

Por. O do not on those terms my freedom name:

Freed by your danger I should die with shame.

Placid. I must not farther by your prayers be won:
All I could do I have already done.

Val. To bring *Porphyrius* only to my sight,

Was not to show your pity, but your spite:

Would you but half oblige her you adore?

You should not have done this, or should do more.

Placid. Alas, what hope can there be left for me,

When I must sink into the Mine I see?

My Heart will fall before you, if I stay;

Each word you speak saps part of it away—

—Yet all my Fortune on his Death is set:

And he may love her, though he loves not yet.

He must—and yet she says he must not die:

O, if I could but wink, I could deny.

Enter Albinius.

Alb. The Emperour expects your Pris'ner strait:

And, with impatience, for his death does wait.

Placid. Nay, then it is too late my Love to weigh.

[Exit Alb.]

Your Pardon, Madam, if I must obey.

Por. I am prepar'd, he shall not long attend.

Val. Then here my Pray'rs, and my submission end.

Placidius know, that hour in which he dies,

My Death (so well I love) shall wait on his.

Placid. O, Madam do not fright me with your Death!

Val. My Life depends alone upon his Breath.

But,

But, if I live in him, you do not know
How far my gratitude to you may go.
I do not promise—but it so may prove,
That Gratitude, in time, may turn to Love.
Try me—

Placid.—Now I consider it, I will :
'Tis in your pow'r to save him or to kill.
I'll run the hazard to preserve his Life,
If, after that, you Vow to be my Wife.

[Musing a little.]

Val. Nay, good *Placidius*, now you are too hard :
Would you do nothing but for meer reward ?
Like Usurers to Men in want you prove,
When you would take Extortion for my Love.

Placid. You have concluded then that he must die.

[Going with *Porph.*

Val. O stay, if no price else his Life can buy,
My Love a ransom for his Life I give :
Let my *Porphyrius* for another live.

[Holding her Handkerchief
before her Face.]

Por. You too much value the small Merchandise :
My Life's o'r rated, when your Love's the price.

Enter *Albinus*.

Alb. I long have list'ned to your generous strife,
As much concern'd for brave *Porphyrius* Life.
For mine I to his favour ow'd this day ;
Which with my future Service I will pay.

Placid. Lest any your intended flight prevent,
I'll lead you first the back way to my Tent :
Thence, in disguise, you may the City gain,
While some excuse for your escape I feign.

Val. Farewel, I must not see you when you part : [Turning her Face away]
For that last look would break my tender heart.

Yet—let it break—I must have one look more :
Nay, now I'm less contented than before.

[Looking on him.]

For that last look draws on another too ;
Which sure I need not to remember you.
For ever—yet I must one glance repeat ;
But quick and short as starving people eat.
So much humanity dwells in your Breast,
Sometimes to think on her who loves you best.

[Going, he takes her hand and kisses it]

Por. My wandring steps where ever Fortune bear,
Your memory I in my Breast will wear.
Which, as a precious Amulet I still
Will carry, my defence and guard from ill.
Though to my former Vows I must be true,
I'll ever keep one Love entire for you.
That Love which Brothers with chaste Sisters make :
And by this Holy kiss, which now I take

From

From your fair hand——

This common Sun, which absent both shall see,
Shall ne'r behold a breach of Faith in me.

Val. Go, go, my Death will your short Vows restore:
You've said enough, and I can hear no more.

[*Exit Valeria one way, and Porph. and Alb. another.*]

Placid. Love and good Nature, how do you betray!
Misleading those who see and know their way!
I, whom deep Arts of State could ne'r beguile,
Have sold my self to ruin for a smile.
Nay, I am driven so low, that I must take
That smile, as Alms, giv'n, for my Rival's sake.

[*Enter Maximin talking with Valerius.*]

Max. And why was I not told of this before?

Val. Sir, she this Evening landed on the shoar.
For with her Daughter being Pris'ner made,
She in another Vessel was convey'd.

Max. Bring hither the *Egyptian* Princess straight.
And you, *Valerius* on her Mother wait.

[*To Placid.*
[*Exit Valerius.*]

Placid. the Mother of th' *Egyptian* Princess here!

Max. *Porphyrius's* Death I will a while defer;
And this new opportunity improve
To make my last effort upon her Love—— [Exit Placid;
Those who have youth may long endure to court;
But he must quickly catch whose Race is short.
I in my Autumn do my Seige begin;
And must make hast e'er Winter comes, to win.
This hour——no longer shall my pains endure:
Her Love shall ease me, or her Death shall cure.

[*Enter at one Door Felicia and Valerius, at the other.*]

S. Catherine and Placidius.

S. Cath. O, my dear Mother!

Fel.——With what joy I see

My dearest Daughter from the Tempest free.

S. Cath. Dearer than all the joys vain Empire yields,
Or than to youthful Monarchs conquer'd Fields.

Before you came——my Soul

All fill'd with Heav'n did Earthly Joys disdain,

But you pull back some part of me again.

Placid. You see, Sir, she can own a joy below.

Max. It much imports me that this truth I know.

Fel. How dreadful Death does on the Waves appear!
Where Seas we only see, and Tempests shear.

Such frightful Images did then pursue

My trembling Soul, that scarce I thought of you.

Placid. All Circumstances to your wish combine:
Her fear of Death advances your design.

Fel.

Fel. But to that only pow'r we serve I pray'd,
Till he, who bid it rise, the Tempest laid.

Max. You are a Christian then!

[To Felist]

For Death this very hour you must prepare :
I have decreed no Christian's Life to spare.

Fel. For Death ! I hope you but my Courage try :
What ever I beleive, I dare not die.
Heav'n does not, sure, that Seal of Faith require ;
Or, if it did, would firmer thoughts inspire.
A Womans Witness can no credit give
To Truths Divine, and therefore I would live.

Max. I cannot give the life which you demand :
But that and mine are in your Daughter's hand :
Ask her, if she will yet her Love deny ;
And bid a Monarch and her Mother die.

Fel. Now, mighty Prince, you cancel all my Fear
My Life is safe when it depends on her.
How can you let me languish thus in pain !
Make hast to curse those doubts which yet remain.
Speak quickly, speak, and ease me of my fear.

[To S. Cath.]

S. Cath. Alas, I doubt it is not you I hear.
Some wicked Fiend assumes your Voice and Face,
To make frail Nature triumph over Grace.
It cannot be——

That she who taught my Childhood Piety,
Should bid my riper Age my Faith deny :
That she who bid my hopes this Crown pursue,
Should snatch it from me when 'tis just in view.

Fel. Peace, Peace, too much my Age's shame you show :
How easie 'tis to teach ! how hard to do !
My lab'ring thoughts are with themselves at strife :
I dare not die, nor bid you save my life.

Max. You must do one, and that without delay ;
Too long already for your Death I stay :
I cannot with your small concerns dispence ;
For Deaths of more importance call me hence.
Prepare to execute your office strait.

[To his Guards]

Fel. O stay, and let 'em but one minute wait.
Such quick Commands for Death you would not give,
If you but knew how sweet it were to live.

Max. Then bid her love.

Fel.——Is duty grown so weak,
That Love's a harder word than death to speak ?

[To S. Cath.]

S. Cath. Oh !

Fel. Mistake me not, I never can approve
A thing so wicked as the Tyrants Love.

[Privately to S. Cath.]

I ask you would but some false promise give,
Only to gain me so much time to live.

S. Cath. That promise is a step to greater sin:
The hold once lost, we seldom take agen.
Each bound to Heav'n we fainter Essays make;
Still losing somewhat till we quite go back.

Max. Away, I grant no longer a Reprieve.

Fel. O! do but beg my Life and I may live.
Have you not so much pity in your Breast?
He stays to have you make it your request.

[To *S. Cath.*]

S. Cath. To beg your Life——

Is not to ask a grace of *Maximin* :

It is a silent bargain for a Sin.

Could we live always, Life were worth our cost ;

But now we keep with care what must be lost.

Here we stand shiv'ring on the Bank, and cry,

When we should plunge into Eternity.

One moment ends our pain ;

And yet the shock of Death we dare not stand,

By thought scarce measur'd, and too swift for stand:

'Tis but because the living Death ne'er knew,

They fear to prove it as a thing that's new.

Let me th' Experiment before you try,

I'll show you first how easie 'tis to die.

Max. Draw then that Curtain, and let Death appear,
And let both see how easie 'twill be there.

The Scene opens, and shews the Wheel.

Fel. Alas, what torments I already feel !

Max. Go, bind her Hand and Foot beneath that Wheel:

Four of you turn the dreadful Engine round ;

Four others hold her fast'ned to the ground :

That by degrees her tender Breasts may feel,

First the rough razings of the pointed steel :

Her Paps then let the bearded Tenters stake,

And on each Hook a gory Gobbet take.

Till th' upper flesh by piece-meal torn away,

Her beating Heart shall to the Sun display.

Fel. My dearest Daughter at your feet I fall !

Hear, O yet hear your wretched Mothers call.

Think, at your Birth, Ah think what pains I bore,

And can your Eyes behold me suffer more ?

You were the Child which from your Infancy

I still lov'd best, and then you best lov'd me.

About my Neck your little Arms you spread,

Nor could you sleep without me in the Bed ;

But sought my bosom when you went to rest,

And all night long would lie across my breast.

[Kneeling.]

Nor

Nor without cause did you that fondness show :
 You may remember when our Nile did flow ;
 While on the Bank you innocently stood,
 And with a Wand made Circles in the Floud,
 That rose and just was hurrying you to Death,
 When I, from far, all pale, and out of breath,
 Ran and rush'd in——
 And from the Waves my floating pledge did bear ;
 So much my love was stronger than my Fear.
 But you——

Max. Woman, for these long tales your Life's too short ;
 Go, bind her quickly, and begin the sport.

Fel. No, in her Arms my Sanctuary's plac'd : [*Running to her Daughter.*]
 Thus I will cling forever to her waist.

Max. What, must my will by Woman be control'd ?
 Hast, draw your Weapens, and cut off her hold.

S. Cath. Thus my last duty to you let me pay : [*Kissing her Mother.*]
 Yet, Tyrant, I to thee will never pray.
 Though hersto save I my own Life would give,
 Yet by my sin, my Mother shall not live.
 To thy foul-lust I never can consent ;
 Why dost thou then defer my punishment ?
 I scorn those Gods thou vainly dost adore :
 Contemn thy Empire, but thy Bed, abhor.
 If thou wouldst yet a bloodier Tyrant be,
 I will instruct thy rage, begin with me.

Max. I thank thee that thou dost my anger move :
 It is a Tempest that will wreck my Love.
 I'll pull thee hence, close hidden as thou art,

[*Claps his hands to his Breast.*]

And stand with my drawn Sword before my Heart.
 Yes, you shall be obey'd, though I am loth,
 Go, and while I can bid you, bind 'em both.
 Go, bind them ere my fit of Love return :
 Fire shall Qench Fire, and Anger Love shall burn.
 Thus I prevent those Follies I should do ;
 And 'tis the nobler Fever of the two.

Fel. Torn piece by piece, alas, what horrid pains !

S. Cath. Heav'n is all Mercy, who that Death ordains.
 And that which Heav'n thinks best is surely so :
 But bare and naked, shame to undergo,
 'Tis somewhat more than Death !
 Expos'd to lawless Eyes I dare not be,
 My modesty is sacred, Heav'n to thee.
 Let not my Body be the Tyrant's Spoil ;
 Nor hands, nor Eyes thy purity defile.

Amariel descends swiftly with a flaming Sword, and strikes at the Wheel, which breaks in pieces; then he ascends again.

Max. Is this th' effect of all your boasted skill
These brittle Toys to execute my Will;
A Puppet-show of Death I only find,
Where I a strong and finewy Pain design'd.
By what weak Infant was this Engine wrought?

Val. From *Bilbilis* the temper'd Steel was brought;
Metal more tough the Anvil ne'er did beat,
Nor from the Forge did hissing Waters heat.

Placid. I saw a Youth descend all Heav'nly fair,
Who in his hand a flaming Sword did bear,
And, Whirwind-like, around him drove the Air,
At his rais'd Arm the rigid Iron shook;
And, bending backwards, fled before the stroke.

Max. What! Miracles, the tricks of Heav'n to me!
I'll try if she be wholly Iron-free.
If not by Sword, then she shall dye by Fire;
And, one by one, her Miracles I'll tire.
If proof against all kind of Deaths she be,
My Love's immortal, and she's fit for me.

S. Cath. No, Heav'n has shown its pow'r, and now thinks fit
Thee to thy former fury to remit.
Had Providence my longer life decreed,
Thou from thy passion hadst not yet been freed.
But Heav'n, which suffer'd that, my Faith to prove,
Now to it self does vindicate my Love,
A pow'r controlls thee which thou dost not see;
And that's a Miracle it works in thee.

Max. The truth of this new Miracle we'll try;
To prove it, you must take the pains to dye.
Bring me their Heads——

Fel. That mercy, Tyrant, thou deny'st to me,
At thy last breath may Heav'n refuse to thee.
My fears are going, and I Death can view:
I see, I see, him there thy steps pursue.
And with a lifted Arm, and silent Pace,
Stalk after thee, just aiming in his Chase.

S. Cath. No more, dear Mother, Ill in Death it shows
Your Peace of Mind by rage to discompose:
No Streak of Blood (the Reliques of the Earth)
Shall stain my Soul in her Immortal Birth;
But she shall mount all pure, a white, and Virgin mind;
And full of all that Peace which there she goes to find.

[*Exeunt S. Catharine and Felicia, with Valerius*
Guards, the Scene shuts.

Max. She's gone, and pull'd my heart strings as she went.
Were penitence no shame, I could repent.
Yet 'tis of bad Example she should live;
For I might get th' ill habit to forgive.
Thou soft Seducer of my heart away——
Who lingring would about its Confiner stay,
To watch when some Rebellion would begin;
And ready at each sigh to enter in.
In vain! for thou

Dost on the outside of the Body play,
And, when drawn nearest, shalt be whirl'd away.
What ails me, that I cannot lose thy thought!
Command the Empress hither to be brought;
I in her Death shall some diversion find,
And rid my thoughts at once of Woman-kind.

[To Placidius]

Placid aside] 'Tis well he thinks not of *Porphyrius* yet. [Exit]

Max. How hard it is this beauty to forget;
My stormy Rage has only shook my Will:
She erept down lower, but she sticks there still.
Fool that I am to struggle thus with Love!
Why should I that which pleases me remove?
True, she should dye, were she concern'd alone;
But I love, not for her sake, but my own.
Our Gods are Gods, 'cause they have pow'r and will;
Who can do all things, can do nothing ill.
Ill is Rebellion 'gainst some higher pow'r:
The World may sin, but not its Emperor.
My Empress then shall dye, my Princess live;
If this be sin, I do my self forgive.

[To him Valerius]

Val. Your will's obey'd, for, mighty Emperor,
The Princess and her Mother are no more.

Max. She is not dead!

Val.——Great Sir, your will was so.

Max. That was my will of half an hour ago.
But now 'tis alter'd; I have chang'd her Fate,
She shall not die.

Val.——Your pity comes too late.
Betwixt the Guards she seem'd by Bride-men led,
Her cheeks with cheerful blushes were o'er-spread,
When, smiling, to the Ax she bow'd her head.
Just at the stroke——

Ætherial Musick did her death prepare;
Like joyful sounds of Spousals in the Air.
A radiant light did her crown'd Temples gild,
And all the place with fragrant scents was fill'd.
The Balmy mist came thick'ning to the ground,
And Sacred silence cover'd all around,

But

But when (its work perform'd) the Cloud withdrew,

And day restor'd us to each others view,

I sought her head to bring it on my Spear;

In vain I sought it, for it was not there.

No part remain'd ; but from afar our sight

Discover'd in the Air long tracts of light

Of charming Notes we heard the last rebounds;

And Musick dying in remoter sounds.

Max. And dost thou think

This lame account fit for a Love-sick King ?

Go——from the other World a better bring.

[Kills him, then sets his foot on him, and speaks on.]

When in my breast two mighty passions strove,

Thou had'st err'd better in obeying Love.

'Tis true, that way thy death had follow'd too.

But I had then been less displeas'd than now.

Now I must live unquiet for thy sake ;

And this poor recompence is all I take.

[Spurns the Body.]

Here the Scene opens, and discovers Berenice on a Scaffold, the Guards by her, and amongst them Porphyrius and Albinus, like Moors, as all the Guards are. Placidius enters, and whispers the Emperor whilst Porphyrius speaks.

Por. From Berenice I cannot go away;

But, like a Ghost, must near my Treasure stay.

Alb. Night and this shape secure us from their Eyes.

Por. Have courage then for our bold enterprise.

Duty and Faith no tie on me can have,

Since I renounc'd those Honours which he gave.

Max. The time is come we did so long attend;

[To Ber.]

Which must these discords of our Marriage end.

Yet, *Berenice*, remember you have been

An Empress, and the Wife of *Maximin*.

Ber. I well remember I have been your Wife;

And therefore, dying, beg from Heav'n your life:

Be all the Discords of our Bed forgot,

Which, Vertue witness, I did never spot,

What errors I have made, though while I live.

You cannot pardon, to the dead forgive.

Max. How much she is to piety inclin'd!

Behold her while she's in so good a mind.

Por. Stand firm, *Albinus*, now the time is come
To free the Empress.

Alb. —— And deliver Rome.

Por. Within I feel my hot Blood swell my heart;

And generous tremblings in each outward part,

'Tis done —— Tyrant this is thy latest hour.

Porphyrius and Albinus draw, and are making at the Emperor.

Ber.

Ber. Look to your self, my Lord the Emperor :
Treason, help, help, my Lord !

*Maximin turns and defends himself, the Guards set on
Porphyrius and Albinus.*

Max. Disarm 'em, but their Lives I charge you spare.

[After they are disarm'd.]

Unmask 'em, and discover who they are.

Good Gods ! is it *Porphyrius* whom I see ?

Placid. I wonder how he gain'd his Liberty.

Max. Traytor !

Por. ——— Know, Tyrant, I can hear that name
Rather than Son, and bear it with less shame.
Traytor's a Name, which, were my Arm yet free,
The Roman Senate would bestow on thee.

To Ber.] Ah, Madam, you have ruin'd my design,
And lost your Life ; for I regard not mine.
Too ill a Mistress, and too good a Wife.

Ber. It was my duty to preserve his life.

Max. Now I perceive

[To Porphyrius.]

In what close Walk your mind so long did move :
You scorn'd my Throne, aspiring to her Love.

Ber. In Death I'll own a Love to him so pure,
As will the Test of Heav'n it self endure.
A Love so chaste, as Conscience could not chide ;
But cherish it, and kept it by its side.
A Love which never knew a hot desire,
But flam'd as harmless as a lambent Fire.
A Love which pure from Soul to Soul might pass,
As Light transmitted through a Chrystal Glass.
Which gave *Porphyrius* all without a sin ;
Yet kept intire the right of *Maximin*.

Max. The best return that I to both can make,
Shall be to suffer for each others sake.

Por. Barbarian, do not dare her blood to shed,
Who from my vengeance sav'd thy curst Head.
A flight no Honour ever reach'd before ;
And which succeeding Ages will adore.

Ber. *Porphyrius* I must die !

That common Debt to Nature paid must be ;
But I have left a Debt unpaid to thee.

To Maximin——

I have perform'd the duty of a Wife ;
But, saving his, I cast away thy Life,
Ah ! what ill Stars upon our Loves did shine,
That I am more thy Murd'rer than he mine.

Max. Make hast

Pro.

Por. So hasty none in Execution are,
But they allow the dying time for Prayer.
Farewel, sweet Saint, my Prayer shall be to you;
My Love has been unhappy, but 'twas true.
Remember me ! Alas, what have I said ?
You must die too !

But yet remember me when you are dead.

Ber. If I die first, I will —
Stop short of Heav'n, and wait you in a Cloud ;
For fear we lose each other in the crowd.

Por. Love is the only Coin in Heav'n will go.
Then take all with you, and leave none below.

Ber. 'Tis want of knowledge, not of Love, I fear,
Left we mistake when Bodies are not there,
O as a mark that I could wear a Scroull,
With this Inscription, *Berenice's Soul*.

Por. That needs not, sure, for none will be so bright,
So pure, or with so small allays of light.

Max. From my full Eyes fond Tears begin to start ;
Dispatch, they practise Treason on my Heart.

Por. Adieu, this Farewel sigh, I as my last bequeath,
Catch it, 'tis Love expiring in a breath.

Ber. This sigh of mine shall meet it half the way,
As pledges given that each for other stay.

Enter Valeria and Cydon.

Val. What dismal Scene of Death is here prepar'd ;

Max. Now strike.

Val. They shall not strike till I am heard.

Max. From whence does this new impudence proceed,
That you dare alter that which I decreed ?

Val. Ah, Sir, to what strange courses do you fly,
To make your self abhorr'd for Cruelty !

The Empire groans under your bloody Reign ;

And its vast Body bleeds in every Vein.

Gasping and pale, and fearing more it lies ;

And now you stab it in the very Eyes :

Your *Cæsar* and the Part'ner of your Bed ;

Ah who can wish to live when they are dead ?

If ever gentle pity touch'd your Breast —

— I cannot speak, — my Tears shall speak the rest.

[Weeping and sobbing.]

Por. She adds new grief to what I felt before,
And Fate has now no room to put in more.

Max. Away, thou shame and slander of my blood.

Who taught thee to be pitiful or good ?

Val. what hope have I

The

The name of Virtue should prevail with him,
Who thinks ev'n it, for which I plead, a Crime?
Yet Nature, sure, some Argument may be;
If them you cannot pity, pity me.

Max. I will, and all the World shall judge it so:
I will th' excess of pity to you show.
You ask to save

A dangerous Rebel, and disloyal Wife,
And I in mercy——will not take your Life.

Val. You more than kill me by this Cruelty,
And in their persons bid your Daughter dye.
I honour *Berenice's* Virtue much;
But for *Porphyrius* my love is such,
I cannot, will not live when he is gone.

Max. I'll do that Cure for you which on my self is done.
You must, like me, your Lover's Life remove;
Cut off your hope, and you destroy your Love,
If it were hard, I would not bid you try
The Med'cine: but 'tis but to let him dye.
Yet since you are so soft (which you call good)
And are not yet confirm'd enough in blood
To see his Death;
Your frailty shall be favour'd with this grace,
That they shall suffer in another place.
If after they are dead, their memory,
By any chance into your mind be brought,
Laugh, and divert it with some other thought.
Away with 'em.

[*Exeunt Berenice, Porphyrius, Albinus, carried off by Guards.*

Val. Since Pray'rs nor Tears can bend his cruel mind, [*Looking after Porph.*
Farewel, the best and bravest of Mankind;
How I have lov'd, Heav'n knows; but there's a Fate,
Which hinders me from being fortunate.
My Father's Crimes hang heavy on my head,
And like a gloomy Cloud about me spread;
I would in vain be pious, that's a grace
Which Heav'n permits not to a Tyrants race.

Max. Hence to her Tent the foolish Girl convey.

Val. Let me be just before I go away:
Placidius, I have vow'd to be your Wife;
Take then my hand, 'tis yours while I have Life.
One moment here, I must anothers be:
But this *Porphyrius* gives me back to thee.

Stabs her self twice, and then Placidius wrests the Dagger from her.

Placid. Help, help the Princess, help!

Max. What rage has urg'd this act which thou hast done?

Val. Thou, Tyrant, and thy Crimes have pull'd it on.

H Thou

Thou who canst Death with such a pleasure see,
 Now take thy fill, and glut thy sight in me.
 But—— I'll th' occasion of my Death forget ;
 Save him I love, and be my Father yet :
 I can no more—— *Porphyrius* my dear——

Cyd. Alas, she raves, and thinks *Porphyrius* here.

Val. Have I not yet deserv'd thee now I die ?

Is *Berenice* still more fair than I ?

Porphyrius, do not swim before my sight ;
 Stand still, and let me, let me aim aright.
 Stand still but while thy poor *Valeria* dies,
 And sighs her Soul into her Lovers Eyes.

[Dies.]

Placid. She's gone from Earth, and with her went away
 All of the Tyrant that deserv'd to stay :
 I've lost in her all joys that life can give ;
 And only to revenge her death would live——

[Aside.]

Cyd. The Gods have claim'd her, and we must resign.

Max. What had the Gods to do with me or mine ?

Did I molest your Heav'n ?——

Why would you then make *Maximin* your Foe,
 Who paid you Tribute, which he need not do ?
 Your Altars I with smoak of Gums did crown :
 For which you lean'd your hungry Nostrils down :
 All daily gaping for my Incense there,
 More than your Sun could draw you in a Year.
 And you for this these Plagues on me have sent ;
 But by the Gods (by *Maximin* I meant)
 Henceforth I and my World
 Hostility with you and yours declare :
 Look to it, Gods, for you th' Aggressors are.
 Keep you your Rain and Sun-shine in your Skies,
 And I'll keep back my Flame and Sacrifice.
 Your Trade of Heav'n shall soon be at a stand,
 And all your Goods lie dead upon your hand.

Placid. Thus, Tyrant, since th' Gods th' Aggressors are, [Stabbing him.
 Thus by this stroke they have begun the War.

Maximin struggles with him, and gets the Dagger from him.

Max. Thus I return the strokes which they have giv'n ; [Stabbing *Placid.*
 Thus, Traitor, thus ; and thus I would to Heav'n.

Placidius falls, and the Emperor staggers after him, and sits down
 upon him ; the Guards come to help the Emperor.

Max Stand off, and let me, e'er my strength be gone,
 Take my last pleasure of revenge, alone.

Enter a Centurion.

Cen. Arm, Arm, the Camp is in a mutiny :
 For Rome and Liberty the Soldiers cry.

Por.

Porphyrius mov'd their pity as he went,
To rescue *Berenice* from punishment.

And now he heads their new-attempted crime.

Max. Now I am down, the Gods have watch'd their time.
You think——

To save your credit, feeble Deities;
But I will give my self the strength to rise.

He strives to get up, and being up, staggers.

It wonnot be——

My Body has not pow'r my Mind to bear.
I must return again——and conquer here.
My Coward Body does my will control;
Farewel thou base Deserter of my Soul.
I'll shake this Carcass off and be obey'd;
Reign an Imperial Ghost without its aid.
Go, Soldiers, take my Ensigns with you fight,
And vanquish Rebels in your Sovereign's Right:
Before I dye——

[Sits down upon the Body.]

Bring me *Porphyrius* and my Empress dead;
I would brave Heav'n, in my each hand a Head.

Placid. Do not regard a dying Tyrant's Breath,
He can but look revenge on you in Death.

[To the Soldiers.]

Max. Vanquish'd, and dar'st thou yet a Rebel be?
Thus——I can more than look revenge on thee.

[Stabs him again.]

Placid. Oh, I am gone!

[Dies.]

Max.——And after thee I go,
Revenging still, and following ev'n to th' other World my Blow.

[Stabs him again.]

And shoving back this Earth on which I sit,
I'll mount——and scatter all the Gods I hit.

[Dies.]

*Enter Porphyrius, Berenice, Albinus, Soldiers. Porphyrius looks
on the Bodies entering and speaks.*

Por. 'Tis done before, (this mighty work of Fate!
And I am glad our Swords are come too late.
He was my Prince, and though a bloody one,
I should have conquer'd and have mercy shown.
Sheath all your Swords, and cease your enmitie;
They are not Foes, but *Romans* whom you see.

Ber. He was my Tyrant, but my Husband too;
And therefore Duty will some tears allow.

Por. Placidius here!
And fair *Valeria* new depriv'd of breath?
Who can unriddle this dumb Show of Death?

Cyd. When, Sir, her Father did your Life deny,
She kill'd her self, that she with you might dye.
Placidius made the Emp'ror's Death his crime;
Who, dying, did revenge his Death on him.

Por-

TYRANNICK LOVE; Or,

[Porphyrus kneels, and takes Valeria's hand:]

Por. For thy dear sake, I vow each Week I live,
One Day to fasting and just grief I'll give :
And what hard Fate did to thy Life deny,
My Gratitude shall pay thy Memory.

Cent. Mean time to you belongs th' Imperial Pow'r :
We with one Voice salute you Emperor.

Soldiers. Long live Porphyrus, Emperor of the Romans.

Por. Too much, my Country-men, your love you show,
That you have thought me worthy to be so.
But, to requite that Love, I must take care
Not to engage you in a Civil War.

Two Emperors at Rome the Senate chose,
And whom they chose no Roman shall oppose.

In Peace or War let Monarchs hope or fear ;

All my Ambition shall be bounded here. [Kissing Berenice's hand.]

Ber. I have too lately been a Prince's Wife,
And fear th' unlucky Omen of the Life.

Like a rich Vessel beat by Storms to Shore,
'Twere madness should I venture out once more.

Of glorious troubles I will take no part,
And in no Empire Reign, but of your heart.

Por. Let to the Winds your Golden Eagles fly, [To the Soldiers.]
Your Trumpets sound a bloodless Victory :

Our Arms no more let Aquileia fear,
But to her Gates our peaceful Ensigns bear.

While I mix Cypress with my Myrtle Wreath.
Joy for your Life, and mourn Valeria's Death. [Exeunt omnes.]

FINIS.

